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The Civil Services of
William Henry Harrison
with Extracts from his addresses
speeches and letters.





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THE
CIVIL SERVICES
OF
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON,
WITH EXTRACTS FROM HIS
ADDRESSES, SPEECHES, AND LETTERS,
AND A
SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

THE scales have at last fallen from the eyes of the people! Relieved from the moral ophthalmia that has so long blinded them, they now see that those to whom they have confided the administration of their government have abused their high trust. The people at length KNOW their faithless and ungrateful rulers, and to KNOW them is to determine to REJECT them.

Before the men who are now in power came into office, they were lavish in their promises of REFORM;—they have been guilty of the grossest CORRUPTION. They spoke loudly of RETRENCHMENT and ECONOMY;—they have increased the public expenditures from THIRTEEN millions to THIRTY-NINE millions of dollars! and have not only wasted the revenues of the country by this unparalleled EXTRAVAGANCE, but, by their reckless policy, they have diminished her resources, and have again encumbered her with a NATIONAL DEBT. They held out the most flattering assurances of a continued and increased PROSPERITY throughout the land. How have they kept their promise? By their criminal mismanagement and abuse of power they have checked manufactures, crippled commerce, destroyed credit, deprived agriculture of its due reward, and blighted the prospects and paralyzed the industry of the honest labourer; and when the farmer, the merchant, or the mechanic, points to his fallen fortunes and ruined hopes, his just complaints are hurled back by his pampered rulers with laughing scorn—(their salaries are increased in value—the iron enters not into their souls)—and he is deridingly told, in the language of their rich-leader, Mr. Benton, of Missouri, to “study the financial history of *Holland, France, and Cuba*—follow their example—imitate

them." The citizens of a FREE REPUBLIC are told to follow the example of TYRANNICAL MONARCHIES! to imitate them! to reduce the price of produce, of property, and of labour to one-fourth of what it has been, and to debase the condition of FREEMEN to that of abject SLAVES! While seeking office, they bowed low to the people, and professed to be republicans of the purest school of democracy. Since they have attained their object, they have pursued unblushingly the most arbitrary measures, and have even dared to cite the example of *foreign despotisms* as good authority for their misdeeds. They have already seized upon the PUBLIC PURSE, in their practical anticipation of their favourite scheme, the Sub-Treasury, and have endeavoured to grasp the SWORD OF THE NATION by their new Militia System, as proposed and urged by the Secretary of War, and as recommended by the Chief Executive in his last annual message to Congress;—an iniquitous attempt to raise a STANDING ARMY of 200,000 men—100,000 of whom should be drafted and called into service *whenever the PRESIDENT chose to order them out*, and should be *under HIS control, and subject to such regulations as HE might see fit to prescribe*. The celebrated historian of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, says: "In whatever State an individual unites in his person the *execution of the laws, the command of the army, and the management of the revenue*, that State may be termed a MONARCHY." Has not this administration aimed at a MONARCHY then? Does it not possess "the execution of the laws?" Has it not pursued its infamous Sub-Treasury scheme, though thrice rejected by the people, until it has acquired an absolute control over "the management of the revenue?" And has it not taken cunningly devised steps to obtain "the command of the army?" And had it succeeded in all its wild and reckless attempts, would it not have converted our free government into a DESPOTISM in fact, even were it suffered still to retain a republican name?

But, happily, this monstrous scheme of grasping ambition has failed. Our noble country, whose freedom was purchased by the wisdom and valour of our patriotic sires, is not yet doomed to become the prey of a designing despot, whose sole endeavour, since his election to office, has been, not to promote the welfare of the people, but to *perpetuate his own power*, to pamper and reward his unscrupulous partisans, and to humble the labouring classes of his fellow-citizens to the miserable condition of European serfs.

Of these facts the people are now aware. They have been too long deluded by specious pretences and flattering hopes, and are at length aroused to a just sense of the injuries that have been heaped upon them by the evil measures and corrupt policy of this administration, and have determined to redress their wrongs.

The political position of our country, as it now exists, presents a very singular anomaly. It can scarcely be said that party is now striving with party for the ascendancy; but rather that THE PEOPLE, the GREAT MASS OF THE PEOPLE, of all parties and all conditions, have united in opposition to the drilled ranks of the administration office-holders, and their host of hired and subservient myrmidons—and not for the purpose of regaining their power merely, but for the welfare, almost the existence of their country as a free republic, and for the preservation of her most cherished institutions.

THE PEOPLE, before whom all tyrants tremble, have arisen in their majesty to assert their independence, and to shake off the iron fetters which they had almost suffered to be riveted upon them. This it is which has struck dismay and terror

into the hearts of the administration office-holders, and has calmed the fears, excited the hopes, and restored the confidence of all true lovers of their country.

The fiat has gone forth! The omnipotent voice of the people—a voice of many thunders—is heard in startling echoes from State to State along the Atlantic shore, and is answered back in lengthened and reverberating peals from every section of the mighty Empire of the West! From mountain to mountain,—from river to river,—from sea to sea,—in prairie, valley, and glen,—the joyful shout is prolonged, daily swelling in volume and strength, and proclaiming with irresistible truth, that the days of this evil administration are numbered,—that the People and the Government, so long virtually divorced, are once more to be firmly united,—and that on the 4th of March, 1841, WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the patriot, the statesman, the hero, the honest farmer, and the *Poor Man's Friend*, will be inaugurated PRESIDENT OF THESE UNITED STATES.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

POLITICAL indications, the “shadows of coming events,” now clearly point out that GENERAL HARRISON is to be our next President. The People are therefore very naturally desirous to become familiar with the opinions and sentiments he has heretofore avowed, that they may more fairly estimate the principles on which he will administer the Government. His patriotism, his well-tryed integrity, his devotion to the interests of the people, and his distinguished services as a citizen soldier, are now widely known, and are freely admitted by all but the most reckless of his opponents. But the more brilliant always overshadow the more quiet, but not less useful services;—and hence it is that the merits of William Henry Harrison as a CIVILIAN and LEGISLATOR, are less known than his achievements as a patriot soldier and successful commander. Many of our fellow-citizens have neither time nor opportunity to examine our public documents and histories relating to his civil services, nor to search for and read the various letters and addresses in which he has frankly and honestly avowed the pure republican principles which have always been his guide and rule of action: to their attention this sketch is offered.

William Henry Harrison was born on the 9th day of February, 1773, at Berkeley, on James River, in the county of Charles City, in the State of Virginia. The family from which he is descended settled

in that province in the year 1640. At an extremely early period in the history of Virginia, the name of Harrison appears among the most prominent mentioned in the public annals; and the honourable station which it then held has descended unsullied to our own times.

Benjamin Harrison, the father of the subject of this sketch, was one of the foremost and most conspicuous patriots of our country. He was a very distinguished member of the Continental Congress, in 1774, 1775, and 1776; was chairman of the Committee of the whole House when the Declaration of Independence was finally agreed to; and his signature is annexed to that celebrated document. This eminent patriot died in 1791. During the Revolution, he had expended a large fortune in the service of his country, and therefore left his children but little inheritance save his noble example and the memory of his devotion to patriotism and liberty.

HARRISON'S EDUCATION.

Young Harrison was left under the guardianship of Robert Morris, the great financier of the Revolution. He was educated at Hampden Sydney College. He then repaired to Philadelphia, and commenced the study of medicine under the instruction of the learned and patriotic Dr. Benjamin Rush. Both Morris and Rush were friends of his father, and, like him, were Signers

of the Declaration of Independence. Under their guardianship and influence, the love of liberty and devotion to his country, which his father had early instilled into his mind, were nourished and increased.

HARRISON RECEIVES A COMMISSION FROM WASHINGTON.

About this period, the barbarous hostilities of the Indians on our northwestern borders began to excite public indignation; and our young student, full of generous impulses, resolved to relinquish his professional pursuits and join the army destined to the defence of the Ohio frontier. Our military service was then both toilsome and perilous; but the determined courage and elevated motives of Harrison induced him to overlook every such obstacle, and devote his life to the defence of his country. His intention was opposed by his guardian and by many of his friends; but it was confirmed by the cordial approval of the *immortal Washington*, to whom he applied in person; and from the hands of the revered *Father of his Country*, Harrison received the commission of ensign in the first regiment United States Artillery; and in November, 1791, when but nineteen years of age, he marched on foot to Pittsburgh, and descending the Ohio, joined his regiment at Fort Washington.

As it is not our purpose to dwell upon the military career of Harrison, we will merely say, that during the ensuing war with the Indians, he greatly distinguished himself by his daring energy, his fearless intrepidity, and his strict attention to discipline. He was officially noticed in terms of the highest encomium by General St. Clair, and by General Wayne, who selected him as one of his aides; and at the close of the war, having been promoted to a captaincy, he was left in command at Fort Washington, the most important post in our western country.

HARRISON RETIRES TO PRIVATE LIFE.

In 1797, the war being ended, and there existing no longer an opportunity to serve his country in the field, Captain Harrison resigned his commission, and retired to his *log cabin* at North Bend, on the banks of the Ohio. Turning his sword into a ploughshare, he commenced the cultivation of the soil, and identified himself with the people

whose battles he had fought, and whose lives he had perilled his own to defend.

HARRISON AS SECRETARY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

In 1798, Mr. Harrison was appointed Secretary, and became *ex officio* lieutenant-governor of the Northwestern Territory. In the absence of Governor St. Clair, he discharged the executive duties in a manner that won him the approbation and warm esteem of the people. In the following year, the Territory was admitted to the second grade of government, and the legislative council elected him their delegate to Congress.

HARRISON AS A DELEGATE TO CONGRESS. HIS LAND BILL.

He took his seat in the House of Representatives, at the first session of the sixth Congress, in December, 1799. There were then in Congress some of the ablest and most enlightened statesmen, and some of the most eloquent men, our country has ever produced. Yet in this severe ordeal, the abilities and manly energies of Mr. Harrison soon commanded universal respect. At this period, the all-engrossing subject in the West, and one in which our whole country had a deep interest, was the sale of our public lands. The manner in which these lands had hitherto been disposed of, had created great dissatisfaction among the people. They had been sold only in large tracts; the smallest of which included, at least, four thousand acres; and as the minimum price was at that time two dollars per acre, a great majority of the new settlers were utterly precluded from becoming possessors of land by an original purchase from the government. Our hardy yeomanry, with limited pecuniary means, were thus entirely shut out from all chance of competition with wealthy speculators and grasping monopolists,—the poorer emigrants were becoming disheartened at the chilling prospects before them, and the settlement of the new country was greatly retarded. Fully aware of the impolicy and injustice of this state of things, and true to the trust confided to him, Mr. Harrison's earliest legislative efforts were made to overthrow this exclusive and pernicious system. He aroused the attention of Congress to the consideration of this important

subject, and evinced so intimate an acquaintance with the facts and business details connected with it, that he was appointed chairman of a committee raised to examine into and report on the existing mode of disposing of the public lands; the only instance, it is believed, in which that honour has been conferred on a territorial delegate. After a proper investigation, he presented a report, accompanied by a bill, the principal object of which was to reduce the size of the tracts of public land offered for sale, to such a smaller number of acres as would place them within the reach of actual settlers. This masterly report, which was the joint production of himself and Mr. Gallatin, together with the great ability and eloquence with which he defended his bill from the powerful opposition it encountered in the House, gained Mr. Harrison a reputation rarely attained by so young a statesman. The bill was carried triumphantly in the House, and finally, after some amendments, passed the Senate. The result was, that the public lands, instead of being offered only in large tracts, of which four thousand acres was the smallest size, were now to be sold in alternate sections and half sections—the former containing 640, and the latter 320 acres each. The point gained was of immense importance, since, from the low price of these lands, and the small amount of purchase money required to be paid, they were now, with the aid of industry, within the reach of nearly all the poorer emigrants and actual settlers, who felt a natural desire to own the fee simple of their homes, and of the lands they subdued from the wilderness. Thousands of the hardy and industrious farmers of our Northern and Middle States, and many of the poorer planters of the South, availed themselves of the fair field which was now opened for emigration and enterprise; and we may justly consider this happy result, which Mr. Harrison was so instrumental in producing, as one of the leading causes of the rapid settlement and prosperity of our western country. Mr. Harrison is therefore justly entitled to the proud appellation of being the *Father of the Land System*, and the *Poor Man's Friend*.

The justice and true policy of reducing the size of the tracts of public lands offered for sale having been once admitted, subsequent legislators have found it not only a politic, but a popular measure, and have

followed up the principle thus introduced by Mr. Harrison, until now our public lands may be bought in tracts of but eighty acres each, and at a price of only one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre—whereas, but for the first blow at the old system struck by Mr. Harrison, and but for the wise and just principle first introduced by him, that exclusive system might perhaps still have continued—in which case we feel assured of being within bounds in asserting that the great valley of the Mississippi, the mighty empire of the West, would not, at this day, have numbered one half the population, nor boasted a moiety of the wealth it now contains.

On this important subject Mr. Harrison addressed a circular to the people of the Territory, dated the 14th of May, 1800, from which we make the following quotation.

“Amongst the variety of objects which engaged my attention, as particularly interesting to our Territory, none appeared to me of so much importance as the adoption of a system for the sale of the public lands, which would give more favourable terms to that class of purchasers who are likely to become actual settlers, than was offered by the existing laws upon that subject. Conformably to this idea, I procured the passage of a resolution, at an early period, for the appointment of a committee to take the matter into consideration; and shortly after, I reported a bill containing terms for the purchaser as favourable as could have been expected. The bill was adopted by the House of Representatives without any material alteration; but in the Senate, amendments were introduced obliging the purchaser to pay interest on that part of the money for which a credit was given, from the date of the purchase, and directing that one half the land (instead of the whole, as was provided by the bill from the House of Representatives) should be sold in half sections of three hundred and twenty acres, and the other half in whole sections of six hundred and forty acres. All my exertions, aided by some of the ablest members of the lower house, at a conference for that purpose, were not sufficient to induce the Senate to recede from their amendments; but upon the whole, there is cause of congratulation to my fellow-citizens, that terms so favourable as the bill still contains, have been procured. This law promises to be the foundation of a great increase of population and wealth to our country; for although the minimum price of the land is still fixed at two dollars per acre, the time for making payments has been so extended as to put it in the power of every industrious man to comply with them; it being only necessary to pay one-fourth part

of the money in hand, and the balance at the end of two, three, and four years; besides this, the odious circumstance of forfeiture, which was made the penalty of failing in the payments under the old law, is entirely abolished, and the purchaser is allowed one year after the last payment is due to collect the money; if the land is not then paid for, it is sold, and after the public have been reimbursed, the balance of the money is returned to the purchaser. Four land offices are directed to be opened, one at Cincinnati, one at Chillicothe, one at Marietta, and one at Steubenville, for the sale of the lands in the neighbourhood of those places. In a communication of this kind, it is impossible to detail all the provisions of the law. I have, however, sent a copy of it to the printers at Cincinnati, with a request that they would publish it several weeks."

HARRISON AS GOVERNOR OF INDIANA.

In the year 1800, the Northwestern Territory was divided. That part of the old territory, included within the present boundaries of Ohio and Michigan, retained its former name; and the immense extent of country northwest of this, was erected into a separate government, and received the name of Indiana. Soon after this division had taken place, Mr. Harrison resigned his seat in Congress, and was appointed governor of the new territory. This appointment gave great satisfaction to the people of Indiana, with whom the patriotic exertions of Mr. Harrison had rendered him deservedly popular; and it was, at the same time, the strongest evidence of the confidence with which the General Government relied upon his integrity, prudence, and capacity for civil government.

The vast extent of this new territory included what now constitutes the states of Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, and the territory of Wisconsin. But the small population it then contained was thinly scattered through a vast wilderness, and only three white settlements of any note existed within its boundaries. One of these was at the seat of government, Vincennes, a small town originally built by the French, and beautifully and advantageously situated on the banks of the Wabash; the second, known as Clark's Grant, was at the Falls of the Ohio, nearly opposite Louisville, about one hundred miles from Vincennes; and the third was the French settlement on the banks of the

Mississippi, near St. Louis, and more than two hundred miles distant from the seat of government. The communication between these remote points was, at all times, difficult and toilsome, and often attended with great danger. There existed no practicable roads, and nearly all the intermediate country was occupied by the Indians, or overrun by their hunting parties. Most of these savage tribes, though professing to be friendly, were restless and dissatisfied; and their leading chiefs still nursed a moody hope of revenge for the mortifying defeat they had sustained, six years before, at the battle of the Maumee Rapids. Artful and treacherous, numerous, warlike, and thirsting for plunder, they kept this remote frontier in continual excitement and alarm. The angry feelings of our hardy borderers were frequently roused by some robbery or atrocious aggression committed by the more evil-disposed among their savage neighbours, and quarrels often ensued, which threatened the peace of the whole community.

Such was the existing state of things in Indiana Territory, when Mr. Harrison was appointed to the administration of its government. As governor of a frontier territory so peculiarly situated, Mr. Harrison was invested with civil powers of the most important nature, as well as with military authority. Besides the ordinary powers which he held, *ex-officio*, as governor, he had the sole power of dividing the district into counties and townships; and, with the aid of the judges, had full authority to adopt and publish such laws, both civil and criminal, of the original states, as might be necessary and best adapted to the wants and situation of the district; and he had the appointment of all the magistrates and other civil officers. He was made commander-in-chief of the militia, and all the officers below the rank of general received their commissions from him. He was likewise appointed superintendent of Indian affairs, and agent and representative of the General Government; in performance of the duties of which office, he was required to keep up a constant and voluminous correspondence with the Cabinet at Washington. He had also the unusual power of conferring on a numerous class of individuals, a legal title to large grants of land, on which they before held merely an equitable claim. His sole signature was sufficient, without any other formality, to give a valid title to

these extensive and valuable tracts of land. No other formality or publicity was required, and whatever secret collusion might have existed between the claimant and the governor, the title would still have been unquestionable before any legal tribunal. Possessed of this immense power, without check or limitation, opportunities were continually before him of accumulating a princely fortune; but the scrupulous sense of honour, which has always characterized Mr. Harrison, would never permit him to speculate in lands over which he had any control. During the whole of the time that he held this important trust, he never availed himself of his peculiar advantages to promote his own interests either directly or indirectly; and it is a fact worthy of particular note, that, even to the present time, he has never owned a single acre of land, the title to which, originally, emanated from himself as the representative of the government. No shadow of suspicion has ever clouded his honour, his honesty or disinterestedness; and not a murmur ever accused him of partiality, or even of unnecessary delay, in the performance of this delicate duty. We allude to this to show that the integrity of Mr. Harrison is well-tryed and practical; and that it has always shone with the purest lustre when assailed by the strongest temptations.

HARRISON IS APPOINTED BY JEFFERSON TO TREAT WITH THE INDIANS.

In 1803, Governor Harrison was appointed a commissioner to treat with the Indians, and thus, a further and more extraordinary power was conferred on him in addition to those already enumerated. His nomination to this office was made on the 3d of February, 1803, in the following words:

"I nominate William Henry Harrison, of Indiana, to be a commissioner *to enter into any treaty or treaties, which may be necessary, with any Indian tribes* north-west of the Ohio, and within the jurisdiction of the United States, on the subject of boundary or lands.

"THOMAS JEFFERSON."

HARRISON'S TREATIES WITH THE INDIANS.

By virtue of this authority, in the following year Harrison succeeded in negotiating a treaty with the Sacs and Foxes;

and besides the amicable relations established with those tribes, he obtained the cession of an extensive tract of country, including the whole of the valuable region between the river Illinois and the Mississippi, with a northern boundary, stretching from the head of Fox river to a point on the Wisconsin, thirty-six miles above its mouth. This was the largest cession of lands that had ever yet been made by the Indians at any one time. Considerable tracts of land between the Ohio and the Wabash, and extending from Vincennes westward to the Mississippi, were likewise purchased by annuities from the Delawares and the Miamies. We may here appropriately remark, that during the entire course of his administration, Harrison, effected *thirteen important treaties* with the different tribes, on the most advantageous terms; and obtained from them, at various times, the cession of large tracts of land, amounting in all, to more than *sixty millions of acres, and embracing a large portion of the richest region in our country.*

In their frequent intercourse with Governor Harrison, the Indians had learned to respect his undaunted firmness, and were, at the same time, conciliated by his kindness of manner and considerate forbearance. This, with his intimate knowledge of the Indian character, is the true secret of the remarkable success invariably attendant upon every treaty he has attempted to negotiate.

The various and arduous duties of the Governor of Indiana, required for this office a man of very superior abilities and qualifications, and of a rare temperament—one possessed of a stern integrity and prudent moderation, with wisdom in the exercise of the extensive powers entrusted to him, accompanied by the most unwavering firmness. Such a man Governor Harrison, in the long course of his administration, fully proved himself to be. The plainest evidence that can be presented to those who are not familiar with the history of Indiana, during this eventful period, of the peculiar fitness of Governor Harrison for this important station, of the confidence reposed in him, and of the great popularity he attained while in the exercise of so delicate a trust, is the unquestionable fact, that, for thirteen years, at every successive expiration of his term of office, he was re-appointed, at the earnest solicitation of the people

of the Territory, and with the public expression of the most flattering approbation on the part of our chief Executive. And this too, notwithstanding the entire change which had taken place within that time in the ruling politics of the country—his first appointment having been made by Mr. Adams, his second and third by Mr. Jefferson, and his fourth by Mr. Madison. The following extract from the resolution, unanimously passed by the House of Representatives of Indiana, in the year 1809, requesting the re-appointment of Governor Harrison, will show the estimate which a long acquaintance had taught them of his worth: "They (the House of Representatives) cannot forbear recommending to, and requesting of, the President and Senate, most earnestly in their own names, and in the names of their constituents, the re-appointment of the present governor, William Henry Harrison,—because he possesses the good wishes and affection of a great majority of his fellow-citizens;—because they believe him sincerely attached to the Union, the prosperity of the United States, and the administration of its government; because they believe him in a superior degree capable of promoting the interest of our Territory, from long experience and laborious attention to its concerns, from his influence over the Indians, and wise and disinterested management of that department; and because they have confidence in his virtues, talents, and republicanism."

If necessary, we might fill a goodly volume with extracts from public documents of a similar nature; but what stronger proof than this could we have of the popularity of Governor Harrison, and of the entire confidence with which the people relied on his experience, his integrity, and his ability as a statesman?

In 1805, the Territory of Indiana was advanced to the second grade of government under the new system. The citizens were allowed to elect a Territorial House of Assembly, by which ten persons were nominated, out of whom the president appointed five as a legislative council to complete the territorial legislature. This measure deprived Governor Harrison of much power and great patronage, since it threw into the hands of the people the election of many officers who were before appointed by the executive—but always a ready advocate for the republican rights of

suffrage and self-government, he was true to his principles even when against his interest and he strenuously urged this change of government.

Nearly two years prior to this time, by a brilliant negotiation, a treaty had been effected in Paris, by which Louisiana was purchased by our government from France (to whom it had been ceded by Spain) for eighty millions of francs, or about fifteen millions of dollars; and we were thus finally enabled to realize the boundaries of the ancient charters granted by the British monarchs to their American colonies, and extend the limits of the territory of the United States "from sea to sea." Upon our obtaining actual possession of Louisiana, the jurisdiction of Governor Harrison became greatly enlarged, and the responsibility and laborious duties of his station were consequently much increased. The governor refers to this annexion of Louisiana to the United States, in his address at the first session of the territorial legislature—a document so remarkable for high-minded and purely republican spirit, and for its clearness and fluency of style, that notwithstanding our narrow limits we cannot refrain from laying some portions of it before our readers.

HARRISON'S ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

"Upon a careful review of our situation," said Governor Harrison, "it will be found that we have much cause of felicitation, whether it respects our present enjoyments or our future prosperity. An enlightened and generous policy has for ever removed all cause of contention with our western neighbours. The mighty river which separates us from the Louisianians will never be stained with the blood of contending nations, but will prove the bond of our union, and will convey upon its bosom, in the course of many thousand miles, the produce of our great and united empire. The astonished traveller will behold upon either bank a people governed by the same laws, pursuing the same objects, and warmed with the same love of liberty and science. And if, in the immense distance, a small point should present itself, where other laws and other manners prevail, the contrast it will afford will serve the useful purpose of demonstrating the great superiority of a republican government, and how far the uncontrolled and unbiassed industry of freemen excels the cautious and measured exertions of the subjects of despotic power.

"The acquisition of Louisiana will form an important epoch in the history of our country.

It has secured the happiness of millions, who will bless the moment of their emancipation, and the generous policy which has secured to them the rights of men. To us it has produced immediate and important advantages. We are no longer apprehensive of waging an eternal war with the numerous and warlike tribes of aborigines that surround us, and perhaps being reduced to the dreadful alternative of submitting to their depredations, or of exterminating them from the earth.

"By cutting off their communication with every foreign power, and forcing them to procure from ourselves the arms and ammunition, and such of the European manufactures as habit has to them rendered necessary, we have not only secured their entire dependence, but the means of ameliorating their condition, and of devoting to some useful and beneficial purpose the ardour and energy of mind which are now devoted to war and destruction. The policy of the United States, with regard to the savages within their territories, forms a striking contrast with the conduct of other civilized nations. The measures of the latter appear to have been well calculated for the effect which has produced the entire extirpation of the unhappy people whose country they have usurped. It is in the United States alone that laws have been passed, not only for their safety and protection from every species of injury, but considerable sums of money have been appropriated, and agents employed, to humanize their minds, and instruct them in such arts of civilized life as they are capable of receiving. To provide a substitute for the chase, from which they derive their support, and which, from the extension of our settlements, is daily becoming more precarious, has been considered a sacred duty. The humane and benevolent intentions of the government, however, will for ever be defeated, unless effectual measures be devised to prevent the sale of ardent spirits to those unhappy people. The law which has been passed by Congress for that purpose has been found entirely ineffectual, because its operation has been construed to relate to the Indian country exclusively. In calling your attention to this subject, gentlemen, I am persuaded that it is unnecessary to remind you, that the article of compact makes it your duty to attend to it. The interests of your constituents, the interests of the miserable Indians, and your own feelings, will sufficiently urge you to take it into your most serious consideration, and provide the remedy which is to save thousands of our fellow-creatures. So destructive has the progress of intemperance been among them, that whole villages have been swept away. A miserable remnant is all that remains, to mark the names and situation of many numerous and warlike tribes. In the energetic language of one of their orators, it is a dreadful conflagration, which spreads misery and desolation

through their country, and threatens the annihilation of the whole race. Is it then to be admitted as a political axiom, that the neighbourhood of a civilized nation is incompatible with the existence of savages? Are the blessings of our republican government only to be felt by ourselves? And are the natives of North America to experience the same fate with their brethren of the southern continent? It is with you, gentlemen, to divert from those children of nature the ruin that hangs over them. Nor can I believe that the time will be considered misspent, which is devoted to an object so consistent with the spirit of Christianity, and with the principles of republicanism."

The reply of the Territorial Assembly to this address, manifested the high estimation in which Governor Harrison was held; and is one of the many proofs of his singular popularity, and of the entire confidence reposed in his abilities, and in his disinterestedness and moderation in the exercise of the extensive authority entrusted to him.

The following quotations are made from an address delivered by Governor Harrison to the Legislature in August, 1807.

"I have directed the auditor to lay before you, gentlemen, a statement of the causes which have produced the embarrassments in the collection of the taxes for the present year, which will enable you to determine more correctly on the remedy to be applied. An amendatory act to the one which is now in force, may answer for the present; but nothing less, in my opinion, than a total change in the system, will save us in the future from the disagreeable consequences of a deficit revenue and an empty treasury. The defects in the present system were early foreseen; and at the opening of the last session, I strongly recommended to the two houses the adoption of a different plan. The combination of so many circumstances, such as this law requires, must always render the execution of it uncertain and precarious. It appears to me, also, that it is bottomed on an improper principle. The quantum and the ratio of the tax should be fixed by the legislature alone, and not by an executive officer. This important subject, gentlemen, claims your earliest attention. It will require the exercise of much industry and patience to remedy the evils which have arisen from the present unfortunate system, and to provide one which will give certainty and stability to your revenue. In affairs of this kind, experience is the best guide that the legislator can follow. He will seek out cases that are parallel to the one on which he is called to act, and will thus possess himself of sure landmarks to guide him to his object. In

the present instance, there is no necessity for a recurrence to foreign or distant examples; the neighbouring states afford precisely what we seek—a people similar in manners, in habits, and in the state of information, raising their revenue from the same objects. Notwithstanding the embarrassments which have hitherto attended our financial operations, there is one consolatory circumstance which has been fully established: that a revenue equal to all our necessities can be raised; and that too without oppression or inconvenience to the people.”

In referring to the law regulating marriage licenses, Governor Harrison proceeds to say:

“Connected in some measure with this subject, is the law authorizing the general and circuit courts to grant divorces. The propriety and policy of a law of this kind have been strongly contested in many parts of the United States; and it is believed that the principle has been every where condemned, save in one or two States only. It cannot be denied that the success of one applicant for a divorce, has always the effect of producing others, and that the advantages which a few individuals may derive from the dissolution of this solemn contract, are too dearly purchased by its injurious effects upon the morals of the community. The scenes which are frequently exhibited in trials of this kind, are shocking to humanity. The ties of consanguinity and nature are loosened; the child is brought to give testimony against his parent; confidence and affection are destroyed; family secrets disclosed; and humanity exhibited in its worst colours. In the time of the Roman republic, divorces might be obtained by a summary and easy process; but so great was the abhorrence of them amongst that enlightened people, that in a period of five hundred years, but one person had been found to take advantage of the privilege which the law allowed. But when their manners became corrupt by luxury, divorces became so common that applications were frequently made to the college of augurs, to ascertain the father of a child born in lawful wedlock. A few years ago, there were but two instances on record, in the State of Virginia, of applications for divorce. One only of these had been successful; and although that was acknowledged to be a case which had as strong claims to indulgence as any that could happen, it was nevertheless opposed by some of the most enlightened patriots of that State, upon the principle that it was better for an individual to suffer some inconvenience, than that an example should be established, so injurious, as they supposed, to the morals of the community.”

In explaining his policy towards the Indians, he says:

“It is probable, gentlemen, that the mo-

ment is not far distant when every capable man will be called on to assume the character of a soldier. The situation of our affairs on the Atlantic coast, as well as on this frontier, makes it necessary that there should be no delay in preparing ourselves for the worst that may happen. A restless and dissatisfied disposition has manifested itself amongst some of the neighbouring tribes, and a few individuals are believed to be decidedly hostile. It gives me pleasure, however, to state that I have, within a few days, received from two of the tribes, the most positive assurances of friendship, and their unalterable determination to submit themselves entirely to my direction. These assurances, though in my opinion sincere, ought not to be relied upon; and the preparations for defence ought still to go on, until the real disposition of all the tribes is perfectly ascertained. Although the agency of a foreign power in producing the discontents among the Indians cannot be questioned, I am persuaded that the utmost endeavours to induce them to take up arms would be unavailing, if one only of the many persons who have committed murders on their people, could be brought to punishment. Whilst we rigorously exact of them the delivery of every murderer of a white man, the neglect on our part to punish similar offences committed on them, forms a strong and just ground of complaint, for which I can offer no excuse or palliation. A powerful nation rendering justice to a petty tribe of savages, is a sublime spectacle, worthy of a great republic, and worthy of a people who have shown themselves as valiant in war, as in peace moderate and forbearing.”

TECUMTHE AND THE PROPHET.

About this time our friendly relations with the Indians were broken in upon, and the plans our government had formed to civilize them, and ameliorate their condition, were entirely destroyed by a new and very remarkable influence.

Two twin brothers of the Shawnee tribe, Tecumthe, the *Crouching Panther*, and Ol-li-wa-chi-ca, the *Open Door* commonly known as *the Prophet*, commenced a series of artful and daring intrigues among the Indians on our northwestern frontier, which finally involved them in a war with our country, destined to result in the expulsion of many of these warlike tribes from all their old and favourite hunting-grounds.

Tecumthe was a bold and skilful warrior, sagacious in council, and formidable in battle,—an active, daring, energetic man, but one who preferred tact and secret management to open violence. The Prophet was a shrewd impostor; cunning,

artful and treacherous. He was no warrior, but an accomplished and persuasive orator, who announced himself as a *medicine man* or magician, possessed of vast and miraculous powers, and as having been specially sent by the Great Spirit to reform the condition of the red people, and to restore them to their former prosperity.

These crafty intriguers were leagued together by the tie of mutual interests and a common hatred to the whites; and their object was to form a general combination of all the northwestern and southwestern tribes of Indians, for the purpose of preventing the whites from extending any new settlements west of those already existing; and with the vain hope, too, that by a simultaneous attack on the whole of our extensive, thinly inhabited, and ill-defended western frontier, they might force back the whites from the valley of the Mississippi, and regain a portion of their lost hunting-grounds. But the designs of these intriguing spirits were soon known to Governor Harrison; and, aware of his dangerous and critical position, his prudent forbearance and wise policy enabled him, for several years, to hold his savage neighbours in check.

HARRISON'S TREATY AT FORT WAYNE.

In September, 1809, Governor Harrison held a council at Fort Wayne, and negotiated a treaty with the Miamies, Delawares, Potawatomes, and Kickapoos, by which he succeeded in purchasing from those tribes an extensive tract of country on both sides of the Wabash, and extending up that river more than sixty miles above Vincennes. The tribes who owned these lands were paid for them by certain annuities which they considered a satisfactory equivalent.

HARRISON'S INTERVIEW WITH TECUMTHE.

Tecumthe was absent when this treaty was made, and the Prophet not feeling himself interested, had not opposed it; but on the return of Tecumthe, some months after, both he and his brother expressed great dissatisfaction, and even threatened to put to death all those chiefs who had signed the treaty. Hearing this, and anxious too to ascertain their intentions from themselves, if possible, Governor Harrison despatched messengers to invite them both to Vincennes, and to assure

them that any claims they might have to these lands were not affected by the treaty; but that if they would come to Vincennes and exhibit their pretensions, and they should be found to be valid, the lands would be given up or an ample compensation made for them. Tecumthe came, without his brother—and though the governor, having no confidence in his good faith, had requested him not to bring with him more than thirty warriors, he came with four hundred, completely armed. The governor held a council on the 12th of August, 1810, at which Tecumthe and forty of these warriors were present. The governor was attended by the judges of the supreme court, several officers of the army, Winnemack, a friendly chief, and a few unarmed citizens. A sergeant's guard of twelve men was likewise placed near him, but as the day was exceedingly sultry, and they were exposed to the sun, the governor, with his characteristic humanity, directed them to remove to a shaded spot at some distance.

Tecumthe addressed this council with a speech, in which he openly avowed the designs of himself and his brother. He declared it to be their intention to form a coalition of all the red men, to prevent the whites from extending their settlements farther west—and to establish the principle that the Indian lands belonged in common to all the tribes, and could not be sold without their united consent. He again avowed their intention to put to death all the chiefs who had signed the treaty at Fort Wayne, yet, with singular inconsistency, he at the same time denied all intention to make war, and declared that all those who had given such information to the governor were liars. This was aimed particularly at Winnemack, from whom the governor had received a timely notice of the designs of Tecumthe and his brother.

Governor Harrison replied to Tecumthe in a mild and conciliatory tone, explaining the treaty at Fort Wayne, and clearly proving that all the chiefs whose tribes had any claims upon the lands ceded at this time to the United States, were present at the treaty and had voluntarily signed it—and that they had sold these lands for an annuity which they considered a sufficient compensation. The interpreter of the Shawnees explained the governor's speech to the warriors of that tribe, but when the interpreter to the Potawatomes was about to begin, Tecum-

the interrupted him in a rude and insulting manner, using the most vehement language and the most violent gesticulation, and loudly declaring that all the governor had said was false, and that he and the United States had cheated and imposed upon the Indians. As he uttered this, his warriors sprung to their feet and began to brandish their tomahawks and war-clubs, their eyes all fiercely turned upon the governor. Harrison rose immediately and drew his sword. The friendly chief Winnemack cocked a pistol with which he was armed, and some of the officers in attendance drew their weapons and stood on the defensive. During this critical moment not a word was spoken, until the guard hastily approached and were about to fire on the Indians, when the governor, with singular coolness and presence of mind restrained them. He then turned to Tecumthe and calmly but authoritatively told him that "he was a bad man—that he would hold no further talk with him—and that he must now return to his camp, and take his departure from the settlements without delay." The council was immediately broken up, and Tecumthe and his warriors, awed by the coolness and intrepidity of the governor, withdrew in silence.

The next morning, Tecumthe, finding that he had to deal with a man of firmness and undaunted bravery, whom he could neither intimidate by his audacious violence nor disconcert by his cunning manœuvres, solicited another interview with the governor, and apologized for the improprieties he had committed at the council the day before.

Still anxious to conciliate this haughty savage, the governor afterwards paid him a visit at his own camp, with no other attendant than the interpreter. Tecumthe received him with courtesy and much attention; his uniform kindness and inflexible firmness having won the respect of the rude warrior—but he still persisted in rigidly adhering to the policy he had avowed at the council table on the preceding day.

Meanwhile his brother was using every exertion to advance their mutual object. His reputation as a prophet with his cunning pretensions to supernatural powers, gave him a strong hold on the superstitions of his red brethren, and enabled him to attach several of the tribes warmly to his interests. Governor Harrison alludes to

this in his message to the Legislature of Indiana, in the ensuing winter of 1810, from which the following is an extract:

HARRISON'S ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

"Presenting as we do," said Governor Harrison, "a very extended frontier to numerous and warlike tribes of the aborigines, the state of our relations with them must always form an important and interesting feature in our local politics. It is with regret that I have to inform you, that the harmony and good understanding which it is so much our interest to cultivate with these our neighbours, have, for some time past, experienced a considerable interruption, and that we have indeed been threatened with hostilities, by a combination formed under the auspices of a bold adventurer, who pretended to act under the immediate inspiration of the Deity. His character as a prophet would not, however, have given him any very dangerous influence, if he had not been assisted by the intrigues and advice of foreign agents, and other disaffected persons, who have for years omitted no opportunity of counteracting the measures of the government with regard to the Indians, and filling their naturally jealous minds with suspicions of the justice and integrity of our views towards them."

"The circumstance which was laid hold of to encourage disaffection, on a late occasion, was the treaty made by me at Fort Wayne in the autumn of the last year. Amongst the difficulties which were to be encountered, to obtain those extinguishments of title which have proved so beneficial to the treasury of the United States, and so necessary, as the means of increasing the population of the territory, the most formidable was that of ascertaining the tribes which were to be admitted as parties to the treaties. The object was accordingly discussed in a long correspondence between the government and myself, and the principles which were finally adopted, were made as liberal towards the Indians as a due regard to the interests of the United States would permit. Of the tribes which had formed the confederacy in the war which terminated by the peace of Greeneville, some were residents upon the lands which were in the possession of their forefathers, at the time that the first settlements were made in America by white people, whilst others were emigrants from distant parts of the country, and had no other claim to the tracts they occupied, than what a few years' residence, by the tacit consent of the real owners, could give. Upon common and general principles, the transfer of the title of the former description would have been sufficient to vest in the purchaser the legal right to lands so situated. But in all its transactions with the Indians, our government

has not been content with doing that which was just only. Its savage neighbours have, on all occasions, experienced its liberality and benevolence. Upon this principle, in several of the treaties which have been made, several tribes have been admitted to a participation of their benefits, who had no title to the land ceded, merely because they had been accustomed to hunt upon, and derive part of their support from them. For this reason, and to prevent the Miamies, who were the real owners of the land, from experiencing any ill effects from their resentment, the Delawares, Potawatomes, and Kickapoos were made parties to the late treaty at Fort Wayne. No other tribe was admitted, because it never had been suggested that any other could plead even the title of use or occupancy of the lands, which at that time were conveyed to the United States.

"It was not until eight months after the conclusion of the treaty, and after his design of forming a hostile combination against the United States had been discovered and defeated, that the pretensions of the Prophet, with regard to the lands in question, were made known. A furious clamour was then raised by the foreign agents among us, and other disaffected persons, against the policy which had excluded from the treaty this great and influential character, as he is termed; and the doing so, expressly attributed to personal ill-will on the part of the negotiator. No such ill-will did in fact exist. I accuse myself, indeed, of an error, in the patronage and support which I afforded him upon his first arrival on the Wabash, before his hostility to the United States had been developed; but on no principle of propriety or policy could he have been made a party to the treaty. The personage called the Prophet is not a chief of the tribe to which he belongs, but an outcast from it, rejected and hated by the real chiefs, the principal of whom was present at the treaty, and not only disclaimed on the part of his tribe any title to the lands ceded, but used his personal influence with the chiefs of the other tribes to effect the cession.

"As soon as I was informed that his dissatisfaction at the treaty was assigned as the cause of the hostile attitude which the Prophet had assumed, I sent to inform him that whatever claims he might have to the lands which had been purchased for the United States, were not in the least affected by that purchase; that he might come forward and exhibit his pretensions, and if they were really found to be just or equitable, the lands would be restored, or an ample equivalent given for them. His brother was deputed, and sent to me for that purpose; but far from being able to show any colour of claim, either for himself or any of his followers, his objections to the treaty were confined to the assertion, that all the lands upon the continent were the com-

mon property of all the tribes, and that no sale of any part of it could be valid, without the consent of all. A proposition so extremely absurd, and which would for ever prevent any further purchase of lands by the United States, could receive no countenance from any friend of his country. He had, however, the insolence to declare, that by the acknowledgment of that principle alone could the effects of his resentment be avoided."

* * * * "I have been thus particular, gentlemen, in giving you information upon the present state of affairs with the neighbouring Indians, that you may have them fully before you, in case you should think proper to make them in any shape the subject of your deliberations."

CALUMNY TRIUMPHANTLY REFUTED.

In the course of this address, the whole of which we regret that the limited space allowed us will not permit us to quote, Governor Harrison alluded to some idle complaints and malicious calumnies which had been spread abroad by certain disaffected persons within the territory—the totally unfounded nature of which was soon made apparent in a court of justice. There are in every community, individuals who are incapable of appreciating or are unwilling to admit the existence of disinterested and patriotic motives of action—and who, if they are too dull or perverse to comprehend the wise policy and strict justice of any public measure, are inclined by the whisperings of their own hearts to attribute that measure to the promptings of base or unworthy motives. It is not a matter of surprise, therefore, that some such were found in the territory over which Governor Harrison presided. Among these was one M'Intosh, who openly asserted that Governor Harrison had cheated the Indians in the treaty at Fort Wayne, by which the United States had the year before obtained so large a cession of lands from the Miamies, Delawares, Potawatomes and Kickapoos. As this calumny was industriously circulated, Governor Harrison thought it due both to his own character and to that of the General Government that the charge should be fully and judicially investigated, while the subject was still fresh and the testimony in relation to the treaty at Fort Wayne was still within reach. An action for slander was therefore brought against M'Intosh, in the Supreme Court of the territory, and every possible measure was

adopted to obtain a fair and an impartial decision. To insure this, two of the judges left the bench during the trial—one being a friend of the governor and the other of the defendant—leaving the case to be adjudicated by the third judge, who had but recently arrived in the territory and was but slightly acquainted with either of the parties. All the facts connected with the negotiation of the treaty of Fort Wayne were critically inquired into, and the defendant was allowed every opportunity to examine all persons engaged in the Indian Department, or who were acquainted with the circumstances attendant upon the making of this treaty. But the more this subject was inquired into, the more clearly did it manifest the strict honour and integrity of Governor Harrison; until, at length, convinced of this, the counsel of M^rIntosh abandoned all plea of justification, and asked only for a mitigation of damages. The jury returned a verdict of four thousand dollars against the defendant; a heavy verdict in a new country, where money is always scarce, and damages given by juries in such cases are generally very small. A large amount of the defendant's property was sold the following year to satisfy this judgment, and was bought in by the agent of the governor, while he himself was absent in command of the army. *Two-thirds of this property Governor Harrison afterwards returned to M^rIntosh, and the remainder he distributed among the orphan children of some of his gallant fellow-citizens who fell in battle during the last war!* Such acts need no comment—while magnanimity, disinterestedness, and generosity are prized among men, the tongue of praise even can scarcely do them justice.

INDIAN HOSTILITIES—GOVERNOR HARRISON'S MEASURES OF DEFENCE.

In 1811, from petty aggressions, the Indians proceeded to more open violence, and acts of decided hostility. The war-whoop was again heard yelling within the limits of the territory, and every day brought fresh accounts of the perpetration of those ruthless deeds of depredation and murder, which always give the first intimation of a savage war. From motives of humanity as well as policy, Governor Harrison had always sought to avoid a war with the Indians; but when this result became unavoidable, he promptly adopted the most

energetic measures within his limited resources, to place the territory in a posture of defence. At his own earnest request, and at the solicitation of the people, the President soon after directed him to march with an armed force towards the principal place of rendezvous of the hostile Indians, the Prophet's town, on the Wabash, near the mouth of the Tippecanoe—where this crafty impostor had gathered together a body of more than a thousand fierce warriors, ready to obey his will.

Governor Harrison immediately assembled five hundred of the militia and volunteers of Indiana. These, with a regiment of United States infantry, consisting of three hundred and fifty men, commanded by Colonel Boyd, and a small body of volunteers from Kentucky, constituted his whole available force—amounting in all to scarcely nine hundred effective men. As soon as he had disciplined these troops, and trained both the regulars and militia in the Indian mode of warfare, he took up his line of march towards the Prophet's town.

HARRISON'S MARCH TO THE PROPHET'S TOWN.

He left Fort Harrison, on the Wabash, about sixty miles above Vincennes, on the 28th of October, 1811. Profiting by his own early experience, and the remembered example of his old friend and commander, General Wayne, his march through a singularly wild country to Tippecanoe, was conducted with so much skill and prudence, that he avoided all danger of ambuscade or surprise from the savage foe. On the 6th of November, the army arrived within five or six miles of the Prophet's town. According to the instructions he had received from the President, Governor Harrison immediately sent in a flag of truce, to endeavour to open an amicable negotiation with the hostile Indians. To this overture, the Prophet returned a pacific but deceitful reply—professing, all the while, the most amicable intentions, and agreeing to meet the governor the next day in council, with his chiefs, to settle definitely the terms of peace. But Harrison knew too well the treachery of his artful antagonist, to allow himself to be deceived by his specious professions, or lulled into any fancied security. He carefully selected the most eligible and defensible position for his encampment, and posted his troops in a hol-

low square, with his cavalry drawn up in rear of the front line. He then ordered his men to lie upon their arms all night, that they might be in constant readiness to repel any sudden attack; and he surrounded the entire camp with a chain of sentinels, placed at such a distance as to give timely notice of the approach of the enemy, yet not so remote as to prevent their retreat in case they should be overpowered by numbers. The officers were likewise ordered to sleep with their clothes and accoutrements on, and their arms by their sides; and the governor himself was ready to mount his horse at a moment's warning.

THE VICTORY OF TIPPECANOE.

The night passed without any interruption; and the governor and his aids rose at a quarter before four o'clock, and were sitting in conversation about the fire. The moon had risen, but afforded little light, in consequence of being overshadowed by heavy clouds, from which occasionally fell a drizzling rain. At this moment the attack commenced. The treacherous Indians had stealthily crept up near our sentries, with the intention of rushing upon them and killing them before they could give the alarm. But fortunately one of the sentries discovered an Indian creeping towards him through the grass, and fired at him. This was immediately followed by the Indian yell, and a furious charge upon the left flank. So sudden and fierce was this onset, that the guard stationed in that quarter gave way, at first, to their savage assailants; but, notwithstanding the severe fire, they soon rallied, and maintained their ground with desperate valour. The camp-fires were immediately extinguished, as their light only served to expose our men to the deadly aim of the Indians. Upon the first alarm, the governor mounted his horse, and proceeded to the point of attack; and finding the line much weakened there, he ordered two companies from the centre and rear line to march up to their support. About this time, Colonel Joseph Hamilton Daviess, of Kentucky, informed the governor that the Indians, concealed behind some trees near the left of the front line, were severely annoying the troops in that quarter, and requested permission to dislodge them. In attempting this hazardous exploit, he charged the Indians on foot, but

unfortunately the flash of his pistol exposed him to the deadly aim of the savages, and he was shot down almost instantly, pierced with three balls, either of which would have proved fatal—and thus fell one of the most gallant and chivalric spirits, and one of the most daring and intrepid officers in the whole army. Colonel Isaac White, of Indiana, another brave officer, who served as a volunteer under Colonel Daviess, likewise fell in this sanguinary charge. A heavy fire now commenced upon the right flank, upon a part of the rear line, and upon the entire front as well as upon the left flank. Finding that many of our officers were killed by the severe fire on the right flank, and that our men there were warmly pressed, the governor led another company to their aid, which enabled them to defend their position during the rest of the attack. While the governor was leading this company into action, his gallant aid, Colonel Owen, of Kentucky, was killed at his side. The battle was now maintained in every direction with desperate valour. The Indians advanced and retreated by a rattling noise made with deer-hoofs. They fought with great enthusiasm, and seemed determined to conquer. Our men maintained the fight with even more than their accustomed bravery, and the governor was unwearied in his active exertions. Amid all the din of battle, the fierce shouting of our troops, and the fiend-like yellings of the savages, his clear and manly voice was heard encouraging and supporting his men where they were most severely pressed, and cheering them on to victory. He repeatedly, during the engagement, changed their position to meet the varying attacks of his desperate assailants, and in all these evolutions the troops were formed and led into action by himself.

When the day dawned, the left flank, the most assailable part of the encampment, was reinforced by four companies drawn from the rear and centre; the right flank was strengthened by two companies; the dragoons were mounted, and, supported by them, a simultaneous charge was made upon the enemy on both flanks. And so vigorous and determined was this attack, that the enemy gave way on all sides—the Indians on the left flank were driven into a swamp impenetrable to cavalry, while those on the right were put to flight with great loss; and this severely contested victory was at last gained by our gallant troops.

The Prophet took no active part in this battle, but during the whole of the contest, he remained secure on a neighbouring eminence, chanting a war-song. He had promised his warriors that "the Great Spirit would turn the powder of the whites into ashes, and charm their bullets, so that they should drop harmless, and that the red men should have light, while their enemies were involved in utter darkness." Soon after the battle commenced, he was told that his warriors were falling in great numbers, but he bade them fight on, and they would soon see the fulfilment of his predictions.

Tecumthe was not present at this battle, being on a visit to the southern tribes, whom he was endeavouring to unite in his combination against the United States.

The battle of Tippecanoe was unquestionably one of the most spirited and well-fought actions recorded in the annals of our Indian wars. The numbers and weapons on either side were nearly equal; and the Indians, contrary to their usual custom, fought hand to hand, and with the most desperate ferocity; displaying a boldness and reckless daring, during the engagement, that can only be accounted for by their reliance on the specious promises held out to them by the Prophet. Every man in this battle encountered his share of danger, but no man was in more personal peril than Governor Harrison himself—well known to many of the Indians, and the object of their peculiar attack, his fearless and unshrinking exposure, makes it seem almost a miracle that he should have escaped unwounded. In referring to the coolness and intrepidity of Governor Harrison, on this occasion, we cannot refrain from making the following extracts from a journal published in Keene, New Hampshire, by Adam Walker, a private soldier, who fought in this battle, and who could have had no interested motives for his publication: "General Harrison," he says, "received a shot through the rim of his hat. In the heat of the action, his voice was frequently heard, and easily distinguished, giving his orders in the same calm, cool, and collected manner, with which we had been used to receive them on drill or parade. The confidence of the troops in the General was unlimited." The same writer, in speaking of Harrison's kindness to the soldiers, and his influence over them, remarks: "He appeared not disposed to detain any man against his inclination; being

endowed by nature with a heart as humane as brave, in his frequent addresses to the militia, his eloquence was formed to persuade; appeals were made to reason as well as feeling, and never were they made in vain."

GOVERNOR HARRISON'S MAGNANIMITY.

An incident that occurred at this time is worth recording. The night before the battle, a negro man belonging to the camp, who had been missing, was arrested near the Governor's marquee, under very suspicious circumstances. He was tried by a court-martial for desertion to the enemy, and for an attempt to assassinate the Governor. Sufficient evidence was found to convict him, and he was sentenced to death; yet such were the humane feelings of Harrison, that he could not induce himself to sign the order for his execution. As the criminal attempt had been made against his own life, he felt himself privileged to exercise his benevolence towards the offender, and the misguided wretch was suffered to escape the just punishment of his crime. It would have been more in accordance with the principles of strict justice, to have allowed the law to take its own course in this instance—but the circumstances of the case were very peculiar, and Governor Harrison's conduct evinced a magnanimity and humanity of heart rarely equalled.

The importance of the victory at Tippecanoe cannot be too highly estimated. It quelled the haughty spirit of the discontented and hostile Indians, and defeated the plan, which they had almost matured, of attacking and destroying our scattered border settlements in detail. Had we lost this battle, our army must have been annihilated—the whole extent of our defenceless frontier would have been left to the mercy of sanguinary and unsparing savages, and the consequent loss of life and destruction of property would have been almost incalculable.

President Madison, in his message to Congress, dated December 18th, 1812, makes the following honourable mention of this battle: "While it is deeply to be lamented," says the President, "that so many valuable lives have been lost in the action which took place on the 9th ult., Congress will see, with satisfaction, the dauntless spirit and fortitude victoriously displayed by every description of troops

engaged, as well as the collected firmness which distinguished their commander, on an occasion requiring the utmost exertion of valour and discipline."

The Legislature of Kentucky, at their ensuing session, on the motion of John J. Crittenden, now a distinguished member of the United States Senate, expressed their high sense of Governor Harrison's good conduct on this occasion, by the following complimentary resolution:

"Resolved, That in the late campaign against the Indians, on the Wabash, Governor W. H. Harrison has, in the opinion of this legislature, behaved like a hero, a patriot, and a general; and that for his cool, deliberate, skilful, and gallant conduct, in the late battle of Tippecanoe, he deserves the warmest thanks of the nation."

This high encomium came from those whose friends and neighbours had participated in the late campaign, and who were consequently familiar with all its details, and with the merits of the commander-in-chief.

WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

War was declared with Great Britain in June, 1812. Prior to this event, British agents had, for a long time, been tampering with the discontented Indians within our territory, and had bribed them with presents, and furnished them with firearms, to induce them to renew their hostilities against our country. The crafty and daring Tecumthe, too, was once more in the field. Urged on by his savage eloquence, by their own natural love for war and plunder, and by the atrocious intrigues of foreign agents, the northwestern Indians again raised the war-whoop, and commenced their barbarous system of warfare. Their cruel murders and depredations became of frequent occurrence, and the wailings of bereaved mothers and orphans, and the bitter complaints of those who had escaped from the conflagration of their plundered homes, excited the commiseration of our hardy borderers, and roused a general feeling of indignation. Such was the state of excitement in our frontier settlements in the summer of 1812.

Immediately after the declaration of war, our western governors promptly adopted every measure in their power, for the defence of their respective States and Territories. But conscious of the great abilities

and experience of Harrison, they placed the utmost reliance on his counsels, and looked to him as the leader, under whom they might hope for success against the common enemy. He aided Governor Edwards in placing the frontier of Illinois in a posture of defence, and soon after, was invited by Governor Scott of Kentucky, a distinguished revolutionary officer, to a conference in relation to the Kentucky troops, which had been raised for the defence of the frontier. He accepted this invitation, and met Governor Scott at Frankfort; where he was received with the acclamations of the people, and with the highest civil and military honours. These public marks of the high estimation in which Harrison was held by the people, were shortly after followed by proofs still more flattering of their confidence in his patriotism, his abilities, and his military skill.

Governor Scott had levied an armed force of more than five thousand militia and volunteers, commanded by some of the ablest men and most experienced officers in the State. Two thousand of these troops were ordered for immediate service; and they had no sooner learned that they were destined to march to the aid of their fellow-countrymen on the frontier, than they at once unanimously expressed the most earnest desire to be placed under the command of Governor Harrison. This feeling was responded to by the wishes of the whole mass of the people throughout the State. The laws of Kentucky, however, would not permit any other than a citizen, to hold a command in the State militia. In this dilemma, Governor Scott consulted with the venerable Shelby, (the governor elect), the Hon. Henry Clay, and other distinguished citizens of the state, and by their unanimous advice he gave Harrison a brevet commission of major-general in the Kentucky militia, with express authority to take command of the gallant troops about to march to the frontier. This was a bold and unprecedented measure, but one that gave unbounded satisfaction to both soldiers and citizens, and one fully warranted by the peculiar exigencies of the case. These facts speak volumes in favour of the remarkable popularity and high military reputation which Governor Harrison enjoyed in a population of brave and chivalric people, boasting an unusual proportion of highly gifted and distinguished men.

About this time, the cowardice and imbecility of General Hull tamely surrendered to the British the important post of Detroit, with the gallant force which composed its garrison. This event spread consternation far and wide through the western country, and greatly increased the difficulty and arduous nature of Governor Harrison's duties. He immediately, however, organized the brave troops under his command, and commenced a course of rigid discipline and military training; with the confident hope of retrieving the disasters consequent upon the cowardly surrender of Detroit.

HARRISON IS APPOINTED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE NORTHWESTERN ARMY.

As it is our intention merely to glance at the military achievements of General Harrison, we shall pass rapidly over this brilliant portion of his career. He was appointed brigadier-general of the army of the United States, and soon after, in compliance with the solicitation of the volunteer troops and the almost unanimous wishes of the western people, he was made commander-in-chief of the northwestern army.

The powers conferred on Harrison by this last appointment were of great extent, and he was left to exercise them according to his own unrestricted judgment. In the despatch containing this appointment, dated September 17th, 1812, the Secretary of War says:—"You will command such means as may be practicable—exercise your own discretion, and act in all cases according to your own judgment"—thus conferring upon him extraordinary and almost unlimited powers. We refer to this, merely that we may here notice the remarkable fact, that, though vested with unusual powers, General Harrison was never known, during the whole of his command, to exercise his authority in an unjust or oppressive manner. His measures were energetic, but always qualified by his characteristic moderation and humanity, and by a due regard for the feelings of every soldier in his camp.

This appointment, it should be remembered too, was not obtained by General Harrison by any party or personal influence, but was conferred upon him in compliance with the almost unanimous wishes of the western people; and by a President who, when Secretary of State under Jef-

erson, had been in constant correspondence with him in relation to the territorial affairs of Indiana, and had thus enjoyed an ample opportunity of forming a fair estimate of his abilities and qualifications.

The duties that devolved on General Harrison, in his new station, were arduous beyond description. The troops under his command, though brave, were either volunteers for a limited period of time, or inexperienced and undisciplined recruits; and the army was badly equipped, and nearly destitute of baggage and military stores. With these inadequate means, and under these unfavourable circumstances, he was required to defend an immense extent of frontier, stretching along the shores of the great northern lakes, whose numerous harbours and rivers were easy of access to the enemy. In addition to this, the roads leading to those points which most required defence, were nearly impassable, and lay, for hundreds of miles, through a wilderness swarming with hostile Indians, and through gloomy and dangerous swamps, where the troops, though little encumbered with baggage, could advance but slowly, and with great labour. But under all these difficulties, the spirits of the soldiers were sustained by the presence and example of their favourite commander, who animated them in their fatigues, and cheerfully endured the same hardships and privations which they encountered.

The published accounts of our recent war with the Seminoles in Florida, the disastrous details of which have been made but too familiar to us, will convey to our readers some idea of the peculiar dangers and difficulties of this campaign, and of the skill and fortitude required to overcome them. In either case, we were opposed by the same savage foe, and the country was almost inaccessible from the same causes—its unhealthiness at that season of the year and its extensive and treacherous swamps, the passes through which were known only to the hostile Indians by whom they were occupied—with perhaps, in the two cases, but this difference only, that the northern Indians are well known to be much fiercer and more formidable warriors than their southern brethren, and that, during the whole of this campaign, they were kept constantly supplied, by the British, with more effective arms and ammunition.

Yet all these difficulties and obstacles gave way to the activity and enterprise of

General Harrison. During the ensuing campaign, his vigilance and intrepidity, with the bravery of his soldiers, enabled him to keep a far superior force in check, and to protect the wide extent of our exposed frontier. Our forts were ably defended, and our troops gallantly repelled every attack of the enemy, except in some few instances, where they were assailed by overwhelming numbers.

As General Harrison increased his strength, he began to act on the offensive; and after forcing the enemy to abandon our territory, he commenced making preparations to carry the war into their own country.

Commodore Perry had been instructed to co-operate with General Harrison, with the fleet under his command, and by a happy coincidence, that gallant hero gained his glorious victory on Lake Erie, and captured the entire squadron of the enemy, just about the time when General Harrison had matured his plans for the invasion of Canada.

INVASION OF CANADA.

On the 27th of September, 1813, our troops embarked at Sandusky Bay, and crossing to the Canada shore, took possession of Malden, which stronghold Proctor, the British general, had abandoned on their approach.

Our army advanced rapidly in pursuit of the enemy, and overtook them on the 5th of October, near the Moravian town, on the river Thames, a place which is destined to be remembered as the battle ground of one of the most remarkable and decisive actions fought during the war.

VICTORY OF THE THAMES.

General Proctor, having had his choice of ground, occupied a strong position, well selected to resist the progress of our army. It was flanked on the left by the river Thames, and supported by artillery, and on the right, by two extensive swamps, running nearly parallel to the river. The British regulars were formed in open order, in two extended lines. The Indians were commanded by Tecumthe in person. Their left flank was posted on the isthmus between the two swamps, and their right extended down the principal marsh.

General Harrison drew up one division of his infantry in a double line reaching from the river to the swamp, opposite

Proctor's troops, and the other division at right angles to the first, with its front extending along the swamp, with the view of preventing the Indians from turning his left flank, and attacking him in the rear. Johnson's mounted regiment was placed in front of the infantry.

The American army advanced in order of battle, and when in the immediate neighbourhood of the enemy, the reconnoitering parties brought in intelligence of the dispositions Proctor had made. Harrison, with the rapid decision of an able general, saw at once the egregious error of his opponent, and instantly took advantage of it. Aware that troops formed in open order could not resist a vigorous charge of cavalry, he immediately ordered Colonel Johnson to form his regiment of mounted men, and dash through the enemy's line in close column. The charge was rapidly made, and with the most brilliant success. The extended and weakened line of the enemy could offer but a feeble resistance to the charge of these gallant troops, who dashed through their ranks with overwhelming impetuosity, and formed and attacked them in the rear. Panic-struck by this bold and unexpected manœuvre, and at being assailed both in front and rear, the British threw down their arms in dismay, and the whole army was captured, with the exception of a few who escaped by an early flight with Proctor. The Indians attacked our troops on the left, and fought with great fierceness and daring, until their renowned chief Tecumthe was slain, when they fled precipitately from the contest, after suffering a severe loss.

This decisive and important battle was thus fought and won, in a space of time almost incredibly short, and with a very trifling loss only on our side. All the baggage of the enemy, and their valuable military stores, together with the official papers of Proctor fell into our hands; and several pieces of brass cannon, which had been taken from the British in our revolutionary victories at Saratoga and Yorktown, but which Hull had shamefully surrendered at Detroit, were again captured from our ancient foe.

The united force of the British regulars and Indians engaged in this battle, amounted to more than 2800; the number of our troops was less than 2500, and these were principally militia and volunteers. The venerable Governor Shelby commanded the

Kentucky volunteers in this battle, and General Cass, our present minister to France, and the heroic Perry, acted as volunteer aids to General Harrison. This brilliant victory, following up the capture of their fleet on Lake Erie by the gallant Perry, entirely destroyed the force of the enemy in Upper Canada, and put an end to the war on our northwestern frontier.

Upon this, as well as former expeditions, General Harrison adopted a rule, on all occasions, to favour himself in nothing, but share equally with the common soldiers the fatigues and hardships of the campaign. A small valise contained all his baggage, except his bedding, which consisted of a single blanket only, fastened over his saddle; and even this he gave to Colonel Evans, a British officer, who was wounded and taken prisoner in this battle. Thirty-five British officers, prisoners of war, supped with General Harrison, on the night after the battle, and all the fare he had it in his power to offer them was fresh beef, plainly roasted before a camp-fire, without either bread or salt. This had been the food of the army during the expedition, and the rations of the General were always precisely those of the soldiers. On every occasion, indeed, he made it a point to set an example of fortitude and patience to his men, and to share with them every hardship, difficulty, and danger. Whether encamped or marching, the whole army was regularly under arms at daybreak; and however severe the weather, he never failed to be present, and indeed was generally the first officer on horseback in the whole army.

On receiving the glorious news of the victory of the Thames, the thanks of Congress were expressed to General Harrison in the warmest manner. Among many others, whose grateful feelings found utterance on this occasion, the Hon. Langdon Cheves observed, on the floor of Congress, that—"The victory of Harrison was such as would have secured to a Roman general in the best days of the Republic, the honours of a triumph."—A sentiment which was fully responded to in the complimentary notices which he received from every part of the Union. Simon Snyder, who was then Governor of Pennsylvania, and the idol of the democracy of that State, said in his message to the Legislature, on this occasion, "*The blessings of thousands of women and children rescued from the*

scalping-knife of the ruthless savage of the wilderness, and from the still more savage Proctor, REST ON HARRISON and his gallant army." But the feelings that prompted these grateful expressions were not confined to those States in the more immediate neighbourhood of the seat of war, but were universal throughout the country.

Having entirely defeated the enemy in Upper Canada, General Harrison advanced with a part of his army to the Niagara frontier, and thence to Sackett's Harbour, where he left the troops and proceeded to the seat of government. On his way thither, he passed through New York and Philadelphia; in which cities he was received, by the whole population, with the most flattering marks of public honour and distinction. After the necessary delay of a few days at Washington, General Harrison proceeded to Ohio, where important duties required his presence.

GENERAL HARRISON RESIGNS HIS COMMISSION IN THE ARMY.

In the plan for the ensuing campaign, to the surprise and regret of the public, General Harrison was designated for a service far inferior to that which he had a right to expect. Regardless of the memorable victories which this gallant and experienced officer had won, and unmindful of the various and important services which he had rendered to his country, the Secretary of War, the notorious John Armstrong, saw fit to assign to him the command of a district where he would be compelled to remain inactive, while others were appointed to those more arduous duties which he had heretofore fulfilled with so much honour to himself, and to the nation. As if still unsatisfied with this egregious insult which he had offered to General Harrison, the Secretary of War, on the 25th of April, 1814, appointed a subordinate officer to a separate command within his district, and notified him to that effect. On the receipt of this notification, General Harrison instantly sent in his resignation to the Secretary of War, and at the same time addressed a letter on the subject to President Madison, couched in such simple yet manly language, and expressive of such noble sentiments, that we cannot refrain from quoting it.

HARRISON'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT
MADISON.

"I have this day," said General Harrison, "forwarded to the Secretary of War my resignation of the commission I hold in the army.

"This measure has not been determined on without a reference to all the reasons which should influence a citizen who is sincerely attached to the honour and interests of his country, who believes that the war in which we are engaged is just and necessary; and that the crisis requires the sacrifice of every private consideration, which could stand in opposition to the public good. But after giving this subject a most mature consideration, I am perfectly convinced that my retiring from the army is as compatible with the claims of patriotism, as it is with those of my family, and a proper regard for my own feelings and honour.

"I have no other motive for writing this letter, than to assure you, that my resignation was not produced by any diminution of the interest which I have always taken in the success of your administration, or of respect and attachment for your person. The former can only take place when I forget the republican principles in which I have been educated, and the latter, when I shall cease to regard those feelings which must actuate every honest man, who is conscious of favours that it is out of his power to repay."

As soon as Governor Shelby heard of the resignation of General Harrison, he lost no time in addressing the President in his usual forcible terms, to prevent its being accepted; but, unfortunately for the public interests, the President was then on a visit to Virginia, to which place the letters from General Harrison and Governor Shelby were forwarded, and that of the latter was not received until after Secretary Armstrong, *without the previous consent of the President*, had assumed to himself the high prerogative of accepting the resignation. The President expressed his deep regret that the letter of Governor Shelby had not been received earlier, as in that case the valuable services of General Harrison would have been preserved to the nation in the ensuing campaign.

GENERAL HARRISON'S MOTIVES FOR
RESIGNING.

In this resignation, General Harrison displayed the true patriotism and disinterestedness, which have always marked his conduct. He would cheerfully have devoted his services to his country, even in

an appointment inferior to that which should have been assigned to him; but he was too high-principled to retain his rank, by yielding assent to a measure, which he considered to be subversive of military order and discipline; and though his own fortune had been shattered by the neglect of his private affairs, for the benefit of the public, and it would therefore have been exceedingly convenient to have retained the rank and pay of a major-general; yet he scorned to receive the emoluments of his office, when he was no longer permitted to perform its duties actively and honourably.

It would be difficult at this period to trace out the true motives that induced the Secretary of War to the unjustifiable course he pursued in this affair. But some knowledge of those events of the war in which he bore a part, with a little insight into human nature, would suggest that the leading causes which prompted him, were the envy and jealousy, which a narrow-minded man would naturally feel, on contrasting his own feeble efforts, and abortive attempts, with the consummate skill, the brilliant victories, and the almost uniform successes of another. That he had acted in an arbitrary and unwarrantable manner, was afterwards clearly proved. And in the investigation which took place in Congress in the winter of 1816-17, it became so evident that General Harrison had been treated with great injustice by the war department, that a resolution, giving him a gold medal and the thanks of Congress, was passed, with but one dissenting voice in both houses of Congress.

GENERAL HARRISON'S MILITARY SERVICES.

The leading events in the campaign of 1812-13,—the gallant defence of Fort Meigs, and the decisive victory of the Thames, are lasting memorials of General Harrison's military genius. Yet, for those isolated actions, he deserves far less praise than for the skilful operations and the Fabian policy, which led to these and other successes. The prudent care and indefatigable exertions, by which he provided for his army in a wild and almost impassable country—the promptness and unwearied activity, with which he met and defeated the schemes of his antagonists—and the admirable skill, with which he held in check an enemy far superior in numbers,

and with a small force protected an extended line of frontier, and guarded the lives and property of thousands of his fellow-citizens, betokened a genius of the highest order, with a vigorous mind constantly on the alert.

GENERAL HARRISON IS APPOINTED COMMISSIONER TO TREAT WITH THE INDIANS.

HAVING resigned his commission in the army, General Harrison retired to his farm at North Bend, fifteen miles below Cincinnati.

Soon after his resignation, in the summer of 1814, President Madison evinced an unabated confidence in his abilities and integrity by appointing him to treat with the Indians, in conjunction with his old companions in arms, Governor Shelby and General Cass. In the following year, he was placed at the head of another commission, appointed to treat with the north-western tribes. The honourable and advantageous treaties made in both these cases, afforded new instances of the unfailing success, that has always attended General Harrison's negotiations with the Indians.

In 1816, he was elected, by a large majority, a member of the House of Representatives in Congress, from Ohio.

A short time prior to this election, certain malicious and defamatory reports had been widely circulated against General Harrison. His brilliant career, his remarkable popularity, and his almost invariable success had naturally excited the envy and jealousy of many of those with whom he had necessarily associated, and whose ignorance and incompetency had been rendered more conspicuous in contrast with the singular skill and ability evinced by him. In addition to this, he had incurred the bitter enmity of certain army-contractors, whose fraudulent designs had been detected and foiled by his careful vigilance. Disappointed and mortified by the disgrace of this detection and exposure, these persons had endeavoured to avenge themselves by spreading abroad reports that General Harrison, while in command of the army, had been partial, unjust, and otherwise improper in his conduct, in relation to the commissariat department. Conscious of his integrity, General Harrison, soon after he had taken his seat in the House, demanded an investigation by Congress of these calumnious

reports; and, in compliance with his request, a committee of seven was appointed for that purpose. This committee, after a thorough and minute examination of every thing relating to the subject, *unanimously* reported through their chairman Richard M. Johnson, (now Vice-President of the United States,) that the charges against General Harrison were *false and unfounded*,—that he “*stood above suspicion*,” and “*that he was, in his measures, governed solely by a proper zeal and devotion to the public interest.*”

Soon after General Harrison took his seat in Congress, he was made chairman of the Military Committee. Early in the session he offered the following resolution, which was agreed to without a division:

“Resolved, that the military committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the relief of such of the officers and soldiers, who, having faithfully served in the armies of the United States, are now in distressed circumstances, and who, not having received wounds or disabilities, whilst in actual service, are excluded from the benefits of the pension laws, and that the said committee report by bill or otherwise.”

On the 30th of January, he moved that the military committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting a bounty of one hundred and sixty acres of land to all non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the army, who, having been enlisted previous to the 24th of December, 1811, are not entitled to said bounty, but who, having served faithfully through said war, have obtained an honourable discharge.

These resolutions laid the foundation for those measures “which encircle the fame of this republic with a glory the ancient republics could not boast of, by exhibiting to the world the most beautiful example on record, of a NATION'S GRATITUDE.”

During the session of 1817-18, a bill was before the house to increase the compensation of members of Congress from *six* to *nine* dollars per day; and on motion to strike out “*nine*” and insert “*six*” dollars as the daily pay, General Harrison said that

“In explaining what would otherwise appear an inconsistency in the vote he was about to give, he was aware that in order to preserve in Congress talents of a proper grade, and to enable men of moderate property to come to Congress without a loss, a higher compensation was necessary than had hereto-

fore been allowed to members of Congress. But," said he, "holding as we do, the key of the treasury, we ought not to do ourselves even justice, before we do it to others, *whose claims are stronger, and of longer standing.* WHENEVER JUSTICE SHALL BE DONE TO THE SUFFERERS IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION, AND NOT TILL THEN, I SHALL BE PREPARED TO DO JUSTICE TO OURSELVES."

On the 2d of January, 1818, General Harrison introduced the following resolution, and supported it by a most touching and eloquent appeal to the house.

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed jointly with such committee as may be appointed by the Senate, to consider and report what measures it may be proper to adopt, to manifest the public respect for the memory of General Thaddeus Kosciusko, formerly an officer in the service of the United States, and the uniform and distinguished friend of liberty and the rights of man.

"The public papers have announced an event which is well calculated to excite the sympathy of every American bosom. Kosciusko, the martyr of liberty, is no more! We are informed that he died at Soleure, in France, some time in October last.

"In tracing the events of this great man's life, we find in him that consistency of conduct which is the more to be admired as it is so rarely to be met with. He was not at one time the friend of mankind, and at another the instrument of their oppression, but he preserved throughout his whole career those noble principles which distinguished him in its commencement—which influenced him at an early period of his life to leave his country and his friends, and in another hemisphere to fight for the rights of humanity.

"Kosciusko was born and educated in Poland, of a noble and distinguished family—a country where the distinctions in society are perhaps carried to greater lengths than in any other. His Creator had, however, endowed him with a soul capable of rising above the narrow prejudices of a caste, and of breaking the shackles which a vicious education had imposed on his mind.

"When very young, he was informed, by the voice of Fame, that the standard of liberty had been erected in America; that an insulted and oppressed people had determined to be free, or perish in the attempt. His ardent and generous mind caught with enthusiasm the holy flame, and from that moment he became the devoted soldier of liberty.

"His rank in the American army afforded him no opportunity to distinguish himself. But he was remarked throughout his service, for all the qualities which adorn the human character. His heroic conduct in the field, could only be equalled by his moderation and affability in the walks of private life. He was idolized by the soldiers for his bravery,

and beloved and respected by the officers for the goodness of his heart, and the great qualities of his mind.

"Contributing greatly, by his exertions, to the establishment of the independence of America, he might have remained, and shared the blessings it dispensed, under the protection of a chief who loved and honoured him, and in the bosom of a grateful and affectionate people.

"Kosciusko had, however, other views. It is not known that, until the period I am speaking of, he had formed any distinct idea of what could, or indeed what ought, to be done for his own country. But in the revolutionary war, he drank deeply of the principles which produced it. In his conversations with the intelligent men of our country, he acquired new views of the science of government and the rights of man, he had seen too that to be free it was only necessary that a nation should will it, and to be happy it was only necessary that a nation should be free. And was it not possible to procure these blessings for Poland? For Poland, the country of his birth, which had a claim to all his efforts, to all his services? That unhappy nation groaned under a complication of evils which has scarcely a parallel in history. The mass of the people were the abject slaves of the nobles—the nobles, torn into factions, were alternately the instruments and the victims of their powerful and ambitious neighbours. By intrigue, corruption and force, some of its fairest provinces had been separated from the republic, and the people, like beasts, transferred to foreign despots, who were again watching for a favourable moment for a second dismemberment. To regenerate a people thus debased—to obtain for a country thus circumstanced, the blessings of liberty and independence, was a work of as much difficulty as danger. But to a mind like Kosciusko's, the difficulty and danger of an enterprise served as stimulants to undertake it.

"The annals of these times give us no detailed account of the progress of Kosciusko in accomplishing his great work, from the period of his return from America to the adoption of the new constitution of Poland, in 1791. This interval, however, of apparent inaction, was most usefully employed to illumine the mental darkness which enveloped his countrymen. To stimulate the ignorant and bigoted peasantry with the hope of future emancipation—to teach a proud but gallant nobility that true glory is only to be found in the paths of duty and patriotism—interests the most opposed, prejudices the most stubborn, and habits the most inveterate, were reconciled, dissipated and broken, by the ascendancy of his virtues and example. The storm which he had foreseen, and for which he had been preparing, at length burst upon Poland. A feeble and unpopular government bent before its fury, and submitted itself to the Russian yoke of the invader. But the nation

disdained to follow its example; in their extremity every eye was turned on the hero who had already fought their battles—the sage who had enlightened them, and the patriot who had set the example of personal sacrifices to accomplish the emancipation of the people.

"Kosciusko was unanimously appointed generalissimo of Poland, with unlimited powers, until the enemy should be driven from the country. On his virtue the nation reposed with the utmost confidence; and it is some consolation to reflect, amidst the general depravity of mankind, that two instances, in the same age, have occurred, where powers of this kind were employed solely for the purposes for which they were given.

"It is not my intention, sir, to follow the Polish chief throughout the career of victory, which, for a considerable time crowned his efforts. Guided by his talents, and led by his valour, his undisciplined, illy-armed militia charged with effect the veteran Russian and Prussian; the mailed cuirassiers of the great Frederic, for the first time, broke and fled before the lighter and appropriate cavalry of Poland. Hope filled the breasts of the patriots. After a long night, the dawn of an apparently glorious day broke upon Poland. But to the discerning eye of Kosciusko, the light which it shed was of that sickly and portentous appearance, indicating a storm more dreadful than that which he had resisted.

"He prepared to meet it with firmness, but with means entirely inadequate. To the advantages of numbers, of tactics, of discipline, and inexhaustible resources, the combined despots had secured a faction in the heart of Poland. And if that country can boast of having produced its Washington, it is disgraced also by giving birth to a second Arnold. The day at length came which was to decide the fate of a nation and a hero. Heaven for wise purposes, determined that it should be the last of Polish liberty. It was decided, indeed, before the battle commenced. The traitor Poniski, who covered with a detachment the advance of the Polish army, abandoned his position to the enemy, and retreated.

"Kosciusko was astonished, but not dismayed. The disposition of his army would have done honour to Hannibal. The succeeding conflict was terrible. When the talents of the general could no longer direct the mingled mass of combatants, the arm of the warrior was brought to the aid of his soldiers. He performed prodigies of valour. The fabled prowess of Ajax, in defending the Grecian ships, was realized by the Polish hero. Nor was he badly seconded by his troops. As long as his voice could guide, or his example fire their valour, they were irresistible. In this unequal contest, Kosciusko was long seen, and finally lost to their view.

"Hope for a season bade the world farewell, And freedom shriek'd when Kosciusko fell."

"He fell covered with wounds, but still survived. A Cossack would have pierced his breast, when an officer interposed. 'Suffer him to execute his purpose,' said the bleeding hero. 'I am the devoted soldier of my country, and will not survive its liberties.' The name of Kosciusko struck to the heart of the Tartar, like that of Marius upon the Cimbric warrior. The uplifted weapon dropped from his hand.

"Kosciusko was conveyed to the dungeons of Petersburg—and, to the eternal disgrace of the Empress Catherine, she made him the object of her vengeance, when he could no longer be the object of her fears. Her more generous son restored him to liberty. The remainder of his life has been spent in virtuous retirement. Whilst in this situation in France, an anecdote is related of him which strongly illustrates the command which his virtues and his services had obtained over the minds of his countrymen.

"In the late invasion of France, some Polish regiments, in the service of Russia, passed through the village in which he lived. Some pillaging of the inhabitants brought Kosciusko from his cottage. 'When I was a Polish soldier,' said he, addressing the plunderers, 'the property of the peaceful citizen was respected.' 'And who art thou,' said an officer, 'who addresses us with this tone of authority?' 'I am Kosciusko.'—There was magic in the word. It ran from corps to corps. The march was suspended. They gathered round him, and gazed, with astonishment and awe, upon the mighty ruin he presented. 'Could it indeed be their hero,' whose fame was identified with that of their country? A thousand interesting reflections burst upon their minds; they remembered his patriotism, his devotion to liberty, his triumph, and his glorious fall. Their iron hearts were softened, and the tears of sensibility trickled down their weatherbeaten faces. We can easily conceive, sir, what would be the feelings of the hero himself in such a scene. His great heart must have heaved with emotion, to find himself once more surrounded by the companions of his glory; and that he would have been upon the point of saying to them—

"Behold your general, come once more
To lead you on to laurel'd victory,
To fame, to freedom."

"The delusion could have lasted but for a moment. He was himself, alas! a miserable cripple; and, for them! they were no longer the soldiers of liberty, but the instruments of ambition and tyranny. Overwhelmed with grief at the reflection, he would retire to his cottage, to mourn afresh over the miseries of his country.

"Such was the man, sir, for whose memory I ask from an American Congress, a slight tribute of respect. Not, sir, to perpetuate his fame—but our gratitude. His fame will last as long as liberty remains upon the earth; as long as a votary offers incense upon her altar, the name of Kosciusko will be invoked. And if, by the common consent of the world, a temple shall be erected to those who have rendered most service to mankind, if the statue of our great countryman shall occupy the place of the 'most worthy,' that of Kosciusko will be found by his side, and the wreath of laurel will be entwined with the palm of virtue to adorn his brow."

GENERAL HARRISON'S SPEECH ON THE
SEMINOLE WAR.

During this session, there occurred in the House of Representatives, the interesting debate on the resolution to censure General Jackson for his conduct in the Seminole war. On this occasion General Harrison delivered an able and eloquent speech. It was one of the finest efforts elicited at this time, and was characterized by a spirit of manly independence and patriotic impartiality. It concluded in these words:

"If the highest services could claim indemnity for crime, then might the conqueror of Plataea have been suffered to continue his usurpations until he had erected a throne upon the ruins of Grecian liberty. Sir, it will not be understood that I mean to compare General Jackson with these men. No; I believe that the principles of the patriot are as firmly fixed in his bosom as those of the soldier. But a republican government should make no distinctions between men, and should never relax its maxims of security for any individual, however distinguished. No man should be allowed to say that he could do that with impunity which another could not do. If the Father of his Country were alive, and in the administration of the government, and had authorized the taking of the Spanish posts, I would declare my disapprobation as readily as I do now. Nay, more—because the more distinguished the individual, the more salutary the example. No one can tell how soon such an example may be beneficial. General Jackson will be faithful to his country; but I recollect that the virtues and patriotism of Fabius and Scipio, were soon followed by the crimes of Marius and the usurpation of Sylla, I am sure, sir, that it is not the intention of any gentleman upon this floor to rob General Jackson of a single ray of glory; much less to wound his feelings, or injure his reputation. And whilst I thank my friend from Mississippi, (Mr. Poindexter,) in the name of those who

agree with me that General Jackson has done wrong, I must be permitted to decline the use of the address which he has so obligingly prepared for us, and substitute the following, as more consonant to our views and opinions. If the resolutions pass, I would address him thus: 'In the performance of a sacred duty imposed by their construction of the constitution, the representatives of the people have found it necessary to disapprove a single act of your brilliant career; they have done it in the full conviction that the hero who has guarded her rights in the field, will bow with reverence to the civil institutions of his country—that he has admitted as his creed that the character of the soldier can never be complete without eternal reference to the character of the citizen. Your country has done for you all that a country can do for the most favoured of her sons. The age of deification is past; it was an age of tyranny and barbarism: the adoration of man should be addressed to his Creator alone. You have been feasted in the Pritanes of the cities. Your statue shall be placed in the Capitol, and your name be found in the songs of the virgins. Go, gallant chief, and bear with you the gratitude of your country. Go, under the full conviction, that as her glory is identified with yours, she has nothing more dear to her than her laws, nothing more sacred than her constitution. Even an unintentional error should be sanctified to her service. It will teach posterity that the government which could disapprove the conduct of a Marcellus, will have the fortitude to crush the vices of a Marius.'

"These sentiments, sir, lead to results in which all must unite. General Jackson will still live in the hearts of his fellow-citizens, and the constitution of your country will be immortal."

In 1816, a resolution was introduced in the Senate of the United States, voting gold medals and the thanks of Congress to General Harrison and Governor Shelby. Owing to the opposition of personal enemies, and to certain charges, which as we have before said, were triumphantly refuted, an unsuccessful effort was made to strike out General Harrison's name. On hearing of this attempt, Governor Shelby, immediately wrote to his old commander as follows:

"Don't let the conduct of the Senate disturb your mind. I hope their resolution has been laid over as to both of us. The moment I heard of the course it was like to take, I wrote instantly to Mr. Clay, and expressed my regret that it had been introduced, and how mortified I should feel to be noticed, if you were not included who had rendered ten times more service to the nation than I had."

Soon after, the select committee, appointed to investigate the charges brought against General Harrison, made the report to which we have before referred—in which they fully acquitted him of all these charges, and stated that in *their unanimous opinion*, he stood *above suspicion*, and that *he was in his measures governed by the proper zeal and devotion to the public interest*.

On the 24th of March, 1818, Mr. Dickerson, formerly Governor of New Jersey, and late Secretary of War, under an appointment from President Jackson, again introduced the resolution voting gold medals, and the thanks of Congress to Harrison and Shelby, and sustained the resolution by an eloquent eulogium on the services of General Harrison. It passed the Senate by a unanimous vote, and was concurred in by the House with but *one* dissenting voice. It is as follows:

“Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the thanks of Congress be, and they are hereby presented to Major-General William Henry Harrison, and Isaac Shelby, late Governor of Kentucky, and through them to the officers and men under their command, for their gallantry and good conduct in defeating the combined British and Indian forces, under Major-General Proctor, on the Thames, in Upper Canada, on the fifth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, capturing the British army, with their baggage, camp equipage, and artillery; and that the President of the United States be requested to cause two gold medals to be struck, emblematical of this triumph, and presented to General Harrison, and Isaac Shelby, late Governor of Kentucky.

“H. CLAY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

“JOHN GAILLARD,

President of the Senate, pro tempore.

“April 4th, 1818.—Approved.

“JAMES MONROE.”

On the expiration of General Harrison's term of service in the House of Representatives of the United States, he was elected to the Senate of Ohio. One of his votes, while serving in this station, has been so perverted as to give rise to the absurd charge that he voted in favour of a law to sell white persons, imprisoned under a judgment for debt, for a term of years, if they could not otherwise discharge the execution. This charge is utterly false. But it cannot be better refuted, than by

inserting the letter written by General Harrison to the editor of the paper in which this charge first appeared.

“North Bend, 22d December, 1821.

“SIR—In your paper of the 15th instant, I observed a most violent attack upon eleven other members of the late Senate and myself, for a supposed vote given at the last session for the passage of a law to ‘sell debtors in certain cases.’ If such had been our conduct, I acknowledge that we should not only deserve the censure which the writer has bestowed on us, but the execration of every honest man in society. An act of this kind is not only opposed to the principles of justice and humanity, but would be a palpable violation of the constitution of the State, which every legislator is sworn to support; and sanctioned by a House of Representatives and twelve Senators, it would indicate a state of depravity which would fill every patriotic bosom with the most alarming anticipations. But the fact is, that no such proposition was ever made in the Legislature or even thought of. The act to which the writer alludes, has no more relation to the collection of ‘debts,’ than it has to the discovery of longitude. It was an act for the punishment of offences against the State, and that part of it which has so deeply wounded the feelings of your correspondent, was passed by the House of Representatives, and voted for by the twelve Senators, under the impression that it was the most mild and humane mode of dealing with the offenders for whose cases it was intended. It was adopted by the House of Representatives as a part of the general system of criminal law, which was then undergoing a complete revision and amendment; the necessity of this is evinced by the following facts: for several years past, it had become apparent that the penitentiary system was becoming more and more burdensome at every session; a large appropriation was called for to meet the excess of expenditure, above the receipts of the establishment. In the commencement of the session of 1820, the deficit amounted to near twenty thousand dollars.

“This growing evil required the immediate interposition of some vigorous legislative measure; two were recommended as being likely to produce the effect; first, placing the institution under better management; and secondly, lessening the number of convicts who were sentenced for short periods, and whose labour was found of course to be most unproductive. In pursuance of the latter principle, thefts to the amount of fifty dollars, or upwards, were subjected to punishment in the penitentiary, instead of ten dollars, which was the former minimum sum; this was easily done. But the great difficulty remained to determine what should be the punish-

ment of those numerous larcenies below the sum of fifty dollars. By some, whipping was proposed, by others, punishment by hard labour in the county jails, and by others, it was thought best to make them work on the highways.

"To all these there appeared insuperable objections: fine and imprisonment was adopted by the House of Representatives, as the only alternative; and as it was well known that these vexatious pilferings were generally perpetrated by the most worthless vagabonds in society, it was added that when they could not pay the fines and costs, which are always part of the sentence and punishment, their services should be sold out to any person who would pay their fines and costs for them. This was the clause which was passed, as I believe, by a unanimous vote of the House, and stricken out in the Senate, in opposition to the twelve who have been denominated. A little further trouble in examining the journals, would have shown your correspondent that this was considered as a substitute for whipping, which was lost in the Senate, and in the House by a small majority, after being once passed.

"I think, Mr. Editor, I have said enough to show that this obnoxious law would not have applied to 'unfortunate debtors of sixty-four years,' but to infamous offenders, who depredate upon the property of their fellow-citizens, and who, by the constitution of the State, as well as the principle of existing laws, were subject to involuntary servitude. I must confess I had no very sanguine expectations of beneficial effects from this measure, as it would apply to convicts who had attained the age of maturity. But I had supposed that a woman or a youth, who was convicted of an offence, and remained in jail for the payment of the fine and costs imposed, might with great advantage be transferred to the residence of some decent, virtuous, private family, whose precept and example would greatly tend to lead them back to the paths of virtue. I would appeal to the candour of your correspondent to say whether if there were an individual confined under the circumstances I have mentioned, for whose fate he was interested, he would not gladly see him transferred from the filthy enclosure of a jail, and the still more filthy inhabitants, to the comfortable mansion of some virtuous citizen, whose admonition would check his vicious propensities, and whose authority over him would be no more than is exercised over thousands of apprentices in our country, and those bound servants which are tolerated in our, as well as in every other State in the Union. Far from advocating the abominable principles attributed to me by your correspondent, I think that imprisonment for debt, under any circumstances but those where fraud is alleged, is at war with the best prin-

ciples of our constitution, and ought to be abolished. I am, sir, your humble servant,
(Signed) "WM. HENRY HARRISON."

In the autumn of the following year, General Harrison published an eloquent address to the voters of his district, from which we make the following quotation:

"I believe, that upon the preservation of the union of the States depends the existence of our civil and religious liberties; and that the cement which binds it together is not a parcel of words, written upon paper or parchments, but the brotherly love and regard which the citizens of the several States possess for each other. Destroy this, and the beautiful fabric which was reared and embellished by our ancestors, crumbles into ruins. From its disjointed parts no temple of liberty will again be reared. Discord and wars will succeed to peace and harmony—barbarism will again overspread the land; or, what is scarcely better, some kindly tyrant will promulgate the decrees of his will, from the seat where a Washington and a Jefferson dispensed the blessings of a free and equal government. I believe it, therefore, to be the duty of a representative to conciliate, by every possible means, the members of our great political family, and always to bear in mind that *as the union was effected only by a spirit of mutual concession and forbearance, so only can it be preserved.*"

In 1824 General Harrison was elected to the Senate of the United States; and soon after taking his seat, he was appointed Chairman of the Military Committee, in place of General Jackson, who had resigned. While serving in this high station, he commanded universal respect. His views, as a statesman, were liberal and extended,—his remarkable readiness in debate soon rendered him a prominent member,—and the nervous and impassioned eloquence, and classical felicity of illustration, with which he enforced his arguments, gained him much influence.

As Chairman of the Military Committee, General Harrison introduced a bill for the prevention of desertion in the army. This object, with his customary and generous humanity, he proposed to effect, not by increasing the punishment, but by raising the moral character of the army; by elevating the grade of the non-commissioned officer; by increasing his pay and responsibility; and by holding out additional inducements to the common soldier to perform his duty faithfully. He likewise

devoted himself warmly to the subject of military pensions; and endeavoured to procure the passage of a uniform law embracing the cases of all those who then were, or who should be deserving of that species of honourable reward and justice from their country. His efforts, on this occasion, in favour of the surviving soldiers of the revolution, will not soon be forgotten by the descendants of those heroes.

GENERAL HARRISON'S ADDRESS TO
LA FAYETTE.

On the occasion of La Fayette's visit to Cincinnati, in 1825, General Winfield Scott (if we recollect right) was to have addressed him on behalf of the citizens of that place, but was prevented by indisposition. General Harrison was then waited on by the Committee of Arrangements, only fifteen minutes before the arrival of La Fayette. He had not time to prepare for so unexpected an honour, yet he promptly obeyed the call of his fellow-citizens, and delivered the following address extempore :

"General La Fayette—In the name of the people of Cincinnati, I bid you welcome to their city.

"In other places, General, your reception has been marked by a display of wealth and splendour which we could not imitate, even if it were not incompatible with the simplicity of manners and habits, which distinguish the backwoodsmen of America. But let me assure you, General, that in no part of the Union, or the whole earth, is there to be found a greater respect for your character, a warmer gratitude for your services, or a more affectionate attachment to your person, than in the bosoms of those who now surround you.

"But if we cannot rival some of our sister states in the splendour of our exhibition, or in the fascinating graces of a highly polished society, to a mind like yours we can present a more interesting spectacle—the effects of those institutions, for the establishment of which your whole life has been devoted, in producing in the course of a few years a degree of prosperity, and a sum of human happiness, which you have seen no where surpassed in the wide circuit of your tour. When you last embarked for your adopted country, General, the bounds of this extensive State, did not contain a single white inhabitant. No plough had yet marked a furrow on its luxuriant soil. One unbroken mass of forest equally sheltered a few miserable savages and the beasts which were their prey,

"In this immense waste no human being offered the song of praise or thanksgiving to the throne of the Creator: the country and its inhabitants presented the same appearance of wild, savage, uncultivated nature. But now see the change: 'the wilderness and the solitary places have been made glad, and the desert to blossom as the rose.'

"There is no deception, General, in the appearances of prosperity which are before you. This flourishing city has not been built, like the proud capital on the frozen Neva, by the command of a despot, directing the labour of obedient millions. It has been reared by the hands of freemen. It is the natural mart of a highly cultivated country. These crowded streets are filled with the inhabitants of this city and its vicinity, and are a part of the seven hundred thousand Christian people who daily offer up their orisons to Heaven for the innumerable blessings they enjoy. The youth who form your guard of one hundred thousand enrolled freemen, whose manly bosoms are the only ramparts of our State—have all assembled to present the freewill offering of their affections to the benefactor of their country.

"Happy Chief! How different must be your feelings from those of the most distinguished commander, who, in the days of Rome, conducted to the capital the miserable captives, and the glittering spoils of an unrighteous war. This, your triumph, has not brought to the millions who have witnessed it, a single painful emotion. Your victories have not caused a sigh from the bosom of a human being, unless it be from the tyrants whose power to oppress their fellow-men they have curtailed.

"Happy man! The influence of your example will extend beyond the tomb. Your fame, associated with that of Washington and Bolivar, will convince some future Cæsar, that the path of duty, is the path of true glory; and, that the character of a warrior can never be complete, without faithfully following the character of a citizen.

"Welcome! then, companion of Washington, friend of Franklin, of Adams and Jefferson; devoted champion of Liberty, welcome!"

HARRISON'S SUPPORT OF THE NAVY OF THE
UNITED STATES.

Though early associated with the Army, General Harrison nevertheless evinced an equal degree of zeal and ardour in his support of the Navy of the United States, and convinced of its national importance, he availed himself of every opportunity to uphold its interests and to bear testimony to its important services, and to the gallantry and good conduct of its officers. The animated debate which arose in the Senate on

the bill for the gradual improvement of the Navy, the establishment of a Naval Academy, and for the erection of Dry Docks, elicited from General Harrison one of the ablest and most eloquent speeches delivered on that occasion. On the motion to lay this bill on the table, for the purpose of defeating it altogether, General Harrison said, that

"Much as the people of the interior complained that a sufficiency of the funds of the country was not applied to internal improvements, he should have given the bill his support, had it gone even farther than it does, in applying the means of the country to the increase of the Navy. Indeed, he thought no policy could be better than to apply the whole of the surplus fund to that object. No one could be more fully convinced than he was of the absolute necessity existing for the increase of that most valuable part of our national defence—the Navy. He could have wished that the gentleman from Maine had gone further, and shown that it was not necessary to preserve timber. As to the subject of the dry docks, he considered them equally necessary as the ships themselves, being required for refitting and enabling vessels to take the sea with despatch. The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Hayne,) had gone into a most satisfactory explanation of this portion of the bill, and he should add but a few words. The necessity of being able to refit ships of war at a short notice, had been exemplified often in history; and had, doubtless, at times decided the fate of great victories. It was known that when the English and Dutch were contending for the mastery of the sea, after having fought many battles, and become crippled in some degree on both sides, they retired into their respective ports, and contended with equal vigour for the mastery in refitting. On the subject of naval education, Mr. H. disagreed with the gentleman from Maine. He had said that navigation could only be learned on the ocean and on board ship. This was certainly true as to the mere mechanical part of navigation. Our ships could not, it was well known, be brought on land and manœuvred, as were those of the old Romans preparatory to their being carried into action. But did it follow that navigation could not be learned on shore as well as other sciences? There were documents before the Senate to show that midshipmen, while out of employment, enjoyed no means of improving themselves for future service, or for cultivating those natural abilities which might eventually increase the renown of our country. It had been eloquently said by the gentleman from South Carolina, that the brilliant victories of our gallant navy were mainly attributable to the intelligence

of our officers. This was a just tribute to those officers who had gained, during the last war, such permanent glory for themselves and the nation. If, then, so much had already resulted from the employment of officers possessed not only of bravery, but of intelligence, there could hardly be a doubt of the vast utility and eminent policy of establishing a seminary where the minds of our young naval officers might be tutored in the science to which their lives were to be devoted."

The motion was negatived, and the debate upon the bill continued. Mr. Smith, of South Carolina, moved to strike out all that part of the bill which provided for the erection and government of a Naval Academy. In support of his motion, he delivered a speech in which he ridiculed the notion that *education* was necessary to constitute efficient naval officers; and he cited Perry, McDonough, and Rodgers, as striking instances of good officers not educated to the profession. To this speech General Harrison made a brilliant reply, from which we quote the following passages:

"As to the naval officers, to whom the gentleman had alluded, Mr. H. believed he was, in some of his remarks, in error. For instance, Commodore Decatur did not enter the navy until he was grown to manhood, and had received a good education. It was also within the knowledge of Mr. H. that Perry was an educated man. It was an argument which had rather surprised him, that education would not render our officers more devoted to their country. He thought, on the contrary, that a liberal course of instruction would serve to attach them to the country. There were other considerations of some importance. Numerous instances might be cited in which the characters of men, engaged in warlike pursuits, were humanized by education. *Besides, it was too late in the day to endeavour to depreciate the benefits of education in any class of the community.* By that alone were the free institutions of our country sustained; and when the great objects of science should have been neglected, he should consider this country on the high road to destruction. He could safely say, from personal knowledge of the facts, that the school contemplated in the portion of the bill now under discussion was of the most immediate necessity to our navy. He had conversed with many midshipmen, and he found that they were generally of that situation in life in which their parents could not afford to educate them. The navy was not a service into which rich men sent their sons; and it seemed but proper that the Government

should prepare the officers in their youth for the duties which they would afterwards be called to perform. He felt none of the dislike expressed by the gentleman from South Carolina to the indulgence granted these young men, or the general appearance they were properly ambitious to support. *Mr. H. wished them to be, as far as possible, accomplished men, who would, in foreign countries, do honour to the American character.* They had shown a laudable zeal in endeavouring to improve themselves, as he was informed that the system had been generally adopted by the officers of the navy to set apart a portion of their pay for the purchase of books. Even this, he had no doubt, was productive of much good to the country, as it conferred much credit on the officers themselves. Many of our naval officers had shown themselves well acquainted with the laws of nations, and their communications with foreign Powers had redounded to the honour of themselves and of the nation. *Certainly these men deserved the favourable consideration, and the most liberal treatment from the Government.* The country was in every respect interested in preparing them, by a proper education for the arduous and perilous duties, to the performance of which their lives were devoted. Therefore, he considered the section of this bill which provides for the establishment of a naval school one of its most valuable features, and he hoped it would meet the sanction of the Senate."

HARRISON'S MISSION TO COLOMBIA—HIS
LETTER TO BOLIVAR.

In 1828, General Harrison was appointed by President Adams, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Republic of Colombia. He accepted this appointment, and proceeding immediately upon his mission, landed at Maracaybo on the 22d of December, in that year, and thence repaired to Bogota, the capital of Colombia. He was received with the most flattering demonstrations of respect; but his liberal ideas, his stern integrity, and the plain republican simplicity of his dress and manners, were too strongly in contrast with the arbitrary opinions, and the ostentatious display of the Court at Bogota, to permit him long to remain a favourite with the public officers and the courtiers of the Colombian Government. They soon began to fear that the people would perceive the difference between a real and a pretended patriot, and that a comparison so disadvantageous to themselves might perhaps seriously interfere with their grasping ambition for the future. But though

too honest and puer-minded to be a favourite at this court, General Harrison's intelligence, his strict attention to the duties of his office, and his manly and gallant bearing commanded universal respect.

The Republic of Colombia was at that time in a very deplorable condition; the people were ignorant of their rights, and almost in a state of anarchy; and Bolivar was apparently about to assume the despotic power of a military dictator. Shocked at this state of things, General Harrison, with the frankness of an old soldier, wrote his celebrated letter to Bolivar, not in his diplomatic capacity, but as a personal friend, and addressed him in a strain of noble and thrilling eloquence which has rarely been equalled. So chaste and vigorous is the language of this letter, and so deeply is it imbued with the purest and most exalted sentiments of republican freedom, that, limited as our space is, we cannot refrain from giving it to our readers entire.

Bogota, Sept. 27, 1828.

SIR:—If there is any thing in the style, the matter, or the object of this letter which is calculated to give offence to your Excellency, I am persuaded you will readily forgive it, when you reflect on the motives which induce me to write it. An old soldier could possess no feelings but those of the kindest character towards one who has shed so much lustre on the profession of arms; nor can a citizen of the country of Washington cease to wish that, in Bolivar, the world might behold another instance of the highest military attainments united with the purest patriotism, and the greatest capacity for civil government.

"Such, sir, have been the fond hopes, not only of the people of the United States, but of the friends of liberty throughout the world. I will not say that your Excellency has formed projects to defeat those hopes; but there is no doubt that they have not only been formed, but are, at this moment, in progress to maturity, and openly avowed by those who possess your entire confidence. I will not attribute to these men impure motives; but can they be disinterested advisers? Are they not the very persons who will gain most by the proposed change?—who will, indeed, gain all that is to be gained, without furnishing any part of the equivalent? That *that*, the price of their future wealth and honours, is to be furnished exclusively by yourself! And of what does it consist? Your great character. Such, an one, that, if a man were wise, and possessed of the empires of the Cæsars in its best days, he would give all to obtain. Are you prepared to make this sacrifice for such an object?

"I am persuaded that those who advocate these measures have never dared to induce you to adopt them by any argument founded on your personal interests; and that, to succeed, it would be necessary to convince you that no other course remained to save the country from the evils of anarchy. This is the question, then, to be examined.

"Does the history of this country, since the adoption of the constitution really exhibit unequivocal evidence that the people are unfit to be free? Is the exploded opinion of a European philosopher of the last age, that "in the new hemisphere man is a degraded being," to be renewed and supported by the example of Colombia? The proofs, indeed, should be strong to induce an American to adopt an opinion so humiliating.

"Feeling always a deep interest in the success of the revolutions in the late Spanish America, I have never been an inattentive observer of events pending, and posterior to, the achievement of its independence. In these events I search in vain for a single fact to show that, in Colombia at least, the state of society is unsuited to the adoption of a free government. Will it be said that a free government did exist, but, being found inadequate to the objects for which it had been instituted, it had been superseded by one of a different character, with a concurrence of a majority of the people?

"It is the most difficult thing in the world for me to believe that a people in the possession of their rights as freemen would be ever willing to surrender them and submit themselves to the will of a master. If any such instances are on record, the power has been thus transferred in a moment of extreme public danger, and then limited to a very short period. I do not think that it is by any means certain that the majority of the French people favoured the elevation of Napoleon to the throne of France; but, if it were so, how different were the circumstances of that country from those of Colombia when the constitution of Cucuta was overthrown! At the period of the elevation of Napoleon to the first Consulate all the powers of Europe were the open or the secret enemies of France; civil war raged within her borders; the hereditary King possessed many partisans in every province; the people, continually betrayed by the factions which murdered and succeeded each other, had imbibed a portion of their ferocity, and every town and village witnessed the indiscriminate slaughter of both men and women, of all parties and principles. Does the history of Colombia, since the expulsion of the Spaniards, present any parallel to these scenes? Her frontiers have been never seriously menaced—no civil war raged—not a partisan of the former government was to be found in the whole extent of her territory—no factions contended with each other for the possession

of power—the executive government remained in the hands of those to whom it had been committed by the people in a fair election. In fact, no people ever passed from under the yoke of a despotic government, in the enjoyment of entire freedom, with a less disposition to abuse their newly acquired power than those of Colombia. They submitted indeed, to a continuance of some of the most arbitrary and unjust features which distinguished the former government. If there was any disposition on the part of the great mass of the people to effect any change in the existing order of things—if the Colombian acts from the same motives and the same principles which govern mankind elsewhere and in all ages, they would have desired to take from the government a part of the power which, in their inexperience, they had confided to it. The monopoly of certain articles of agricultural produce, and the oppressive duty of the *Alcavala*, might have been tolerated until the last of their tyrants were driven from the country. But, when peace was restored, when not one enemy remained within its borders, it might reasonably have been supposed that the people would have desired to abolish these remains of arbitrary government and substitute for them some tax more equal and accordant with republican principles.

"On the contrary, it is pretended that they had become enamoured with these despotic measures, and so disgusted with the freedom they did enjoy, that they were more than willing to commit their destinies to the uncontrolled will of your Excellency. Let me assure you, sir, that these assertions will gain no credit with the present generation, or with posterity. They will demand the facts which had induced a people, by no means deficient in intelligence, so soon to abandon the principles for which they had so gallantly fought, and tamely surrender that liberty which had been obtained at the expense of so much blood. And what facts can be produced? It cannot be said that life and property were not as well protected under the republican government as they have ever been; nor that there existed any opposition to the constitution and laws too strong for the ordinary powers of the government to put down.

"If the insurrection of General Paez, in Venezuela, is adduced, I would ask by what means was he reduced to obedience? Your Excellency, the legitimate head of the republic, appeared, and in a moment all opposition ceased, and Venezuela was restored to the republic. But it is said that this was effected by your personal influence and the dread of your military talents; and that, to keep General Paez and other ambitious chiefs from dismembering the republic, it was necessary to invest your Excellency with the extraordinary powers you possess. There would be some reason in this if you had refused to act

without these powers; or, having acted as you did, you had been unable to accomplish any thing without them. But you succeeded completely, and there can be no possible reason assigned why you would not have succeeded with the same means against any future attempt of General Paez, or any other general.

"There appears, however, to be one sentiment in which all parties unite: that is, that, as matters now stand, you alone can save the country from ruin, at least, from much calamity. They differ, however, very widely as to the measures to be taken to put your Excellency in the way to render this important service. The lesser and more interested party is for placing the government in your hands for life; either with your present title, or with one which, it must be confessed, better accords with the nature of the powers to be exercised. If they adopt the less offensive title, and if they weave into their system some apparent checks to your will, it is only for the purpose of masking, in some degree, their real object—which is nothing short of the establishment of a despotism. The plea of necessity, that eternal argument of all conspirators, ancient or modern, against the rights of mankind, will be resorted to, to induce you to accede to their measures; and the unsettled state of the country, which has been designedly produced by them, will be adduced as evidence of that necessity.

"There is but one way for your Excellency to escape from the snares which have been so artfully laid to entrap you, and that is, to stop short in the course which, unfortunately, has been already commenced. Every step you advance under the influence of such counsels will make retreat more difficult, until it will become impracticable. You will be told that the intention is only to vest you with authority to correct what is wrong in the administration and to put down the factions, and that, when the country once enjoys tranquillity, the government may be restored to the people. Delusive will be the hopes of those who rely upon this declaration. The promised hour of tranquillity will never arrive. If events tended to produce it, they would be counteracted by the government itself. It was the strong remark of a former President of the United States, that 'Sooner will the lover be contented with the first smiles of his mistress than a government cease to endeavour to preserve and extend its powers.' With whatever reluctance your Excellency may commence the career—with whatever disposition to abandon it when the objects for which it was commenced have been obtained—when once fairly entered, you will be borne along by the irresistible force of pride, habit of command, and, indeed, of self-preservation, and it will be impossible to recede.

"But it is said that it is for the benefit of the people that the proposed change is to be

made: and that, by your talents and influence alone, aided by unlimited power, the ambitious chiefs in the different departments are to be restrained, and the integrity of the republic preserved. I have said, and I most sincerely believe, that, from the state into which the country has been brought, you alone can preserve it from the horrors of anarchy. But I cannot conceive that any extraordinary powers are necessary. The authority to see that the laws are executed, to call out the strength of the country to enforce their execution, is all that is required and is what is possessed by the Chief Magistrate of the United States, and of every other republic; and is what was confided by the constitution of Cucuta. Would your talents or your energies be impaired in the council or the field, or your influence lessened, when acting as the head of a republic?

"I propose to examine, very briefly, the results which are likely to flow from the proposed change of government: 1st, in relation to the country; and 2d, to yourself personally. Is the tranquillity of the country to be secured by it? Is it possible for your Excellency to believe that, when the mask has been thrown off and the people discover that a despotic government has been fixed upon them, they will quietly submit to it? Will they forget the pass-word which, like the cross of fire, was the signal for rallying to oppose their former tyrants? Will the virgins at your bidding cease to chant the songs of liberty? Was the patriotic blood of Colombia all expended in the fields of Vargas, Bayaca, and Carebobo? The schools may cease to enforce upon their pupils the love of country, drawn from the examples of Cato and the Bruti, Harmodius and Aristogiton; but the glorious example of patriotic devotion exhibited in your Hacienda will supply their place. Depend upon it, sir, that the moment which shall announce the continuance of arbitrary power in your hands will be the commencement of commotions which will require all your talents and energies to suppress. You may succeed. The disciplined army at your disposal may be too powerful for an unarmed, undisciplined, and scattered population; but one unsuccessful effort will not content them, and your feelings will be eternally racked by being obliged to make war upon those who have been accustomed to call you their father and to invoke blessings on your head, and for no cause but their adherence to principles which you yourself had taught them to regard more than their lives.

"If by the strong government which the advocates for the proposed change so strenuously recommend, one without responsibility is intended, which may put men to death and immure them in dungeons without trial, and one where the army is every thing and the people nothing, I must say that, if the tranquillity of Colombia is to be preserved in this

way, the wildest anarchy would be preferable. Out of that anarchy a better government might arise; but the chains of military despotism once fastened upon a nation, ages might pass away before they could be shaken off.

“But I contend that the strongest of all governments is that which is most free. We consider that of the United States the strongest, precisely because it is most free. It possesses the faculties, equally, to protect itself from foreign force or domestic convulsion. In both it has been sufficiently tried. In no country upon earth would an armed opposition to the laws be sooner or more effectually put down; not so much by the terrors of the guillotine and the gibbet, as from the aroused determination of the nation exhibiting their strength, and convincing the factious that their cause was hopeless. No, sir, depend upon it, that the possession of arbitrary power by the government of Colombia will not be the means of securing its tranquillity: nor will the danger of disturbances solely arise from the opposition of the people. The power and the military force which it will be necessary to put into the hands of the governors of distant provinces, added to the nature of the country, will continually present to those officers the temptation and the means to revolt.

“Will the proposed change restore prosperity to the country? With the best intentions to do so, will you be able to recall commerce to its shores, and give new life to the drooping state of agriculture? The cause of the constant decline in these great interests cannot be mistaken. It arises from the fewness of those who labour. To support a swarm of idle and luxurious monks, and an army greatly disproportioned to the resources of the country—with a body of officers in a tenfold degree disproportioned to the army, every branch of industry is oppressed with burdens which deprive the ingenious man of the profits of his ingenuity—the laborer of his reward. To satisfy the constant and pressing demands which are made upon it, the Treasury seizes upon every thing within its grasp, destroying the germ of future prosperity. Is there any prospect that these evils will cease with the proposed change? Can the army be dispensed with? Will the influence of the monks be no longer necessary? Believe me, sir, that the support which the government derives from both these sources will be more than ever requisite.

“But the most important inquiry is, the effect which this strong government will have upon the people themselves. Will it tend to improve and elevate their character, and fit them for the freedom which it is pretended is ultimately to be bestowed upon them? The question has been answered from the age of Homer. Man does not learn under oppression those noble qualities and feelings which fit

him for the enjoyment of liberty. Nor is despotism the proper school in which to acquire a knowledge of the principles of republican government. A government whose revenues are derived from diverting the very sources of wealth from its subjects, will not find the means of improving the morals and enlightening the minds of youth by supporting systems of liberal education; and, if it would, could not.

“In relation to the effect which this investment of power is to have upon your happiness and your fame, will the pomp and glitter of a court and the flattery of venal courtiers, reward you for the troubles and anxieties attendant upon the exercise of sovereignty, every where, and those which flow from your peculiar situation?—Or power supported by the bayonet, for that willing homage which you were wont to receive from your fellow-citizens? The groans of a dissatisfied and oppressed people will penetrate the inmost recesses of your palace, and you will be tortured by the reflection that you no longer possess that place in their affection which was once your pride and your boast, and which would have been your solace under every reverse of fortune. Unsupported by the people, your authority can be maintained only by the terrors of the sword and the scaffold. And have these ever been successful under similar circumstances? Blood may smother for a period, but can never extinguish, the fire of liberty which you have contributed so much to kindle in the bosom of every Colombian.

“I will not urge, as an argument, the personal dangers to which you will be exposed. But I would ask if you could enjoy a life which would be preserved by the constant execution of so many human beings—your countrymen, your former friends, and almost your worshippers? The pangs of such a situation will be made more acute by reflecting upon the hallowed motive of many of those who would aim their daggers at your bosom; that, like the last of the Romans, they would strike, not from hatred to the man, but love to the country.

“From a knowledge of your own disposition and personal feelings, your Excellency will not be willing to believe that you could ever be brought to commit an act of tyranny, or even to execute justice with unnecessary rigour. But trust me, sir, that there is nothing more corrupting—nothing more destructive of the noblest feelings of our nature, than the exercise of unlimited power. The man who, in the beginning of such a career, might shudder at the idea of taking away the life of a fellow-being, might soon have his conscience so seared by the repetition of crime, that the agonies of his murdered victim might become music to his soul, and the drippings of his scaffold might afford ‘blood enough to swim in.’ History is full of such examples.

"From this disgusting picture permit me to call the attention of your Excellency to one of a different character. It exhibits you as the constitutional magistrate of a free people, giving to their representation the influence of your great name and talents to reform the abuses which, in a long reign of tyranny and misrule, have fastened upon every branch of the administration. The army and its swarm of officers reduced within the limits of real usefulness—placed on the frontiers, and no longer permitted to control public opinion and be the terror of the peaceful citizen; by the removal of this incubus from the treasury, and the establishment of order, responsibility and economy in the expenditures of the government, it would soon dispense with the odious monopolies, and the duty of the Alcavala, which have operated with so malign an effect upon commerce and agriculture, and, indeed, upon the revenues which they were intended to augment. No longer oppressed by these shackles, industry would every where revive; the artisan, cheered by the prospect of ample reward for his labour, would redouble his exertions; foreigners, with their capital and skill in the arts, would crowd hither to enjoy the advantages which could scarcely elsewhere be found; and Colombia would soon exhibit the reality of the beautiful fiction of Fenelon: Salentum rising from misery and oppression to prosperity and happiness, under the counsels and direction of the concealed goddess.

"What objection can be urged against this course? Can any one acquainted with the circumstances of the country, doubt its success in restoring and maintaining tranquillity? The people would certainly not revolt against themselves; and none of the chiefs who are supposed to be factiously inclined, would think of opposing the strength of the nation when directed by your power and authority. But it is said that the want of intelligence among the people unfits them for free government. Is it not right, however, that the experiment should be fairly tried? I have already said that this has not been done. For myself, I do not hesitate to declare my firm belief that it will succeed. The people of Colombia possess many traits of character suitable for a republican government. A more orderly, forbearing, and well-disposed people are no where to be met with. Indeed, it may safely be asserted that their faults and vices may be attributable to the accursed government to which they have been so long subjected, and to the intolerant character of their religion, whilst their virtues are all their own. But admitting the present want of intelligence, no one has ever doubted their capacity to acquire knowledge, and under the strong motives which exists to obtain it, supported by the influence of your Excellency, it would soon be obtained.

"To yourself the advantage would be as great as to the country—like acts of mercy, the blessings would be reciprocal: your personal happiness secured, and elevated to a height which would leave but a single competition in the estimation of posterity. In bestowing the palm of merit the world has become wiser than formerly. The successful warrior is no longer regarded as entitled to the first place in the Temple of Fame. Talents of this kind have become too common, too often used for mischievous purposes, to be regarded as they were once. In this enlightened age, the mere hero of the field and the successful leader of armies, may for a moment attract attention. But it will be such as is bestowed upon the passing meteor, whose blaze is no longer remembered when it is no longer seen. The qualities of the hero and the general must be devoted to the good of mankind, before he will be permitted to assume the title of their benefactor, and the station he will hold in their regard and affections will depend not upon the number and the splendour of his victories, but upon the results and the use he makes of the influence he acquires from them.

"If the fame of our Washington depended upon his military achievements, would the common consent of the world allow him the pre-eminence he possesses? The victories at Trenton, Monmouth, and York, brilliant as they were, exhibiting, as they certainly did, the highest grade of military talents, are scarcely thought of. The source of the veneration and esteem which is entertained for his character, by every description of politicians—the monarchist and aristocrat, as well as the republican—is to be found in his undeviating and exclusive devotedness to the interest of his country. No selfish consideration was suffered to intrude itself into his mind. For his country he conquered; and the unrivalled and increasing prosperity of that country is constantly adding fresh glory to his name. General—the course which he pursued is open to you, and it depends upon yourself to attain the eminence which he has reached before you.

"To the eyes of military men, the laurels you won on the fields of Var, Bayaca, and Carebo, will be for ever green; but will that content you? Are you willing that your name should descend to posterity, amongst the mass of those whose fame has been derived from human blood, without a single advantage to the human race? Or shall it be united to that of Washington as the founder and father of a great and happy people? The choice is before you. The friends of liberty throughout the world, and the people of the United States in particular, are waiting your decision with intense anxiety. Alexander toiled and conquered to obtain the applause of the Athenians; will you regard as nothing

the opinions of a nation which has evinced its superiority over that celebrated people, in the science most useful to man, by having carried into actual practice a system of government of which the wisest Athenians had but a glimpse in theory, and considered as a blessing never to be realized, however ardently desired!—The place which you are to occupy in their esteem depends upon yourself.

“Farewell. W. H. HARRISON.”

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
OF COLOMBIA TO GENERAL HARRISON.

Soon after the inauguration of President Jackson, early in March, 1829, General Harrison was recalled from his mission to Colombia. At his audience of leave, the President of the Council addressed him in the following words:

“In expressing to you, Sir, the sentiments of the Council towards your Government, it is agreeable to me to declare, that the hopes formed by Colombia, when the appointment was announced of so distinguished a general, and one of the most eminent citizens of the oldest republic of America, have been realized by your residence in this capital, as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary near this government; and therefore it is highly satisfactory to me, to show the high esteem which your personal qualities have inspired.”

GENERAL HARRISON AS A FARMER—HIS ADDRESS TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

After General Harrison's return from Colombia, he retired to North Bend, and devoted himself to the peaceful pursuits of a farmer.

In June, 1831, he was chosen to deliver an Address before the Hamilton Agricultural Society, at their annual exhibition on the 15th of that month. From this valuable production we make the following quotations:

“Thirty-eight years ago, the spot on which we are now assembled was a dreary wilderness. Not a habitation was to be seen save a solitary, deserted cabin, which only added to the gloom by which it was surrounded. No sound of voices, as now, was heard from men busied in the fulfilment of the commands of the Creator, to cultivate and improve the earth. The silence was unbroken, save by the shout of the Christian warrior, or the appalling yell of the savage, as they mingled in mortal combat. To this scene of solitude, of

desolation, and of blood, what wonders have now succeeded! More than the efforts of unaided man could have accomplished—the hand of heaven is to be distinctly traced. Yes! it is to thy influence, fair Liberty,

‘Daughter of Heaven! who with indignant eye,
On pomp and pageant royalty looks down,’

that we ascribe these wonders, only to be effected under institutions which leave the actions of man unfettered, and his mind as free as the air he breathes.”

* * * * *

“The encouragement of agriculture, gentlemen, would be praiseworthy in any country; in our own it is peculiarly so. Not only to multiply the means and enjoyments of life, but as giving greater stability and security to our political institutions. In all ages and in all countries it has been observed that the cultivators of the soil are those who are least willing to part with their rights, and submit themselves to the will of a master. I have no doubt also, that a taste for agricultural pursuits, is the best means of disciplining the ambition of those daring spirits, who occasionally spring up in the world, for good or for evil, to defend or destroy the liberties of their fellow-men, as the principles received from education or circumstances may tend. As long as the leaders of the Roman army were taken from the plough, to the plough they were willing to return. Never in the character of general, forgetting the duties of the citizen, and ever ready to exchange the sword and the triumphant purple, for the homely vestments of the husbandman.

“The history of this far-famed republic is full of instances of this kind; but none more remarkable than our own age and country have produced. The fascinations of power and the trappings of command were as much despised, and the enjoyment of rural scenes and rural employments as highly prized by our Washington as by Cincinnatus or Regulus. At the close of his military career, he says, ‘I am preparing to return to that domestic retirement, which it is well known I left with the deepest regret, and for which I have not ceased to sigh through a long and painful absence.’

“Your efforts, gentlemen, to diffuse a taste for agriculture amongst men of all descriptions and professions, may produce results more important even than increasing the means of subsistence, and the enjoyment of life. It may cause some future conqueror to end his career

‘Guiltless of his country's blood.’”

The greater part of this address is of a more practical nature—conveying to the society before whom it was delivered, a valuable fund of useful information, well

and forcibly explained by appropriate illustrations, and giving the most convincing evidence that General Harrison is himself a GOOD FARMER, combining theory and practice in the most efficient manner.

COLONEL RICHARD M. JOHNSON'S OPINION OF
GENERAL HARRISON.

In the year 1831, Colonel Richard M. Johnson, now Vice-President of the United States, said, in Congress—

“Who is General Harrison? The son of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, who spent the greater part of his large fortune in redeeming the pledge he then gave, of his ‘fortune, life and sacred honour,’ to secure the liberties of his country.

“Of the career of General Harrison I need not speak—the history of the West, is his history. For forty years he has been identified with its interests, its perils and its hopes. Universally beloved in the walks of peace, and distinguished by his ability in the councils of his country, he has been yet more illustriously distinguished in the field.

“During the late war, he was longer in active service than any other general officer; he was, perhaps, oftener in action than any one of them, and never sustained a defeat.”

HARRISON'S DISCOURSE ON THE ABORIGINES OF
THE VALLEY OF THE OHIO.

In the autumn of 1837, at the request of the Philosophical and Historical Society of Ohio, General Harrison delivered a discourse on the Aborigines of the Valley of the Ohio. In this discourse he contests the opinion advanced by the Hon. Cadwalader Colden, in his “History of the five Indian Nations of Canada,” and which is likewise asserted by Governor Pownall, and by many others, that the original inhabitants of that valley were conquered by the Iroquois. He proves that this alleged subjugation of the northwestern tribes by that warlike confederation, rests on no competent authority; and he brings forward convincing evidence to show that the favoured region through which the Ohio flows, as well as the contiguous country, has been for many centuries as it now is,

“The land of the free and the home of the brave.”

In endeavouring to enforce the great importance of a proper study of history, General Harrison says, in this discourse :

“It is in youth, and in early youth, that the seeds of that patriotism must be sown, which is to continue to bloom through life. No one ever began to be a patriot in advanced age. That holy fire must be lighted up when the mind is best suited to receive with enthusiasm, generous and disinterested impressions. If it is not then ‘the ruling passion’ of the bosom, it will never be at an age when every action is the result of cool calculation, and the basis of that calculation too often the interest of the individual. This has been the prevailing opinion with every free people, throughout every stage of civilization, from the roving savage tribe to the numerous and polished nation; from the barbarous Pelasgi to the glorious era of Miltiades and Cymon, or the more refined and luxurious age of Pericles and Xenophon. By all, the same means were adopted. With all, it was the custom to present to their youth the examples of the heroic achievements of their ancestors, to inspire them with the same ardour of devotion to the welfare of their country. As it regards the argument, it matters not whether the history was written or unwritten; whether in verse or in prose; or how communicated; whether by national annals, to which all had access; by recitation in solemn assemblies, as at the Olympic and other games of Greece; in the songs of bards, as among the Celts and Scandinavians; or in the speeches of the aged warriors, as was practised by the Wyandots, Delawares, Shawnees, and other tribes of our own country. Much fiction was no doubt passed off on these occasions, as real history; but as it was believed to be true, that was sufficient to kindle the spirit of emulation in the cause of patriotism among those to whom these recitations, songs, and speeches were addressed.

“In the remarks I have made, it is by no means my intention to deny the good effects which have been derived from some works of fiction, and that they have greatly assisted

‘To raise the genius and to mend the heart.’

But this result is better effected by authentic history.”

Throughout the whole of this discourse there is a vein of deep thought and calm reflection, aided by a profound research and scholastic knowledge rarely attained. It abounds too, in that ready and happy eloquence for which its author has always been peculiarly noted. We regret that our limits will not permit us to indulge more freely in quotations from this able production.

GENERAL HARRISON'S NOMINATION AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

In the spring of 1836, General Harrison was nominated as a candidate for the Pre-

sidency, by a spontaneous movement of the people in various parts of the Union. Notwithstanding the late period at which this nomination was made, in the fifteen States in which Mr. Van Buren and General Harrison were opposed to each other, the latter received five hundred and fifty-two thousand, and the former but five hundred and eighty thousand votes—a very small majority under existing circumstances. It is now very clearly ascertained that but for the want of a combined action on the part of his friends, and their supineness arising from a distrust of their own strength, General Harrison would have been elected to the Presidency at that time, and the people would have been spared the mortification and misery, they have been compelled to endure under the present administration.

GENERAL HARRISON'S LETTER TO THE HON. SHERROD WILLIAMS.

While this election was pending, the Hon. Sherrod Williams, a member of Congress from Kentucky, addressed a letter of inquiry to General Harrison, which drew from him the following reply :

"North Bend, May 1, 1831.

"SIR—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th ultimo, in which you request me to answer the following questions :

"First: 'Will you, if elected President of the United States, sign and approve a bill distributing the surplus revenue of the United States, to each state according to the federal population of each, for internal improvement, education, and to such other objects as the legislatures of the several states may see fit to apply the same?'

"Second: 'Will you sign and approve a bill distributing the proceeds of the sales of the public lands to each state, according to the federal population of each, for the purposes above specified?'

"Third: 'Will you sign and approve bills making appropriations to improve navigable streams above ports of entry?'

"Fourth: 'Will you sign and approve (if it becomes necessary to secure and save from depreciation the revenue and finances of the nation, and to afford a uniform sound currency to the people of the United States) a bill, with proper modifications and restrictions, chartering a bank of the United States?'

"Fifth: 'What is your opinion as to the constitutional power of the Senate or House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, to expunge or obliterate from the

journals, the records and proceedings of a previous session?'

"From the manner in which the four first questions are stated, it appears that you do not ask my opinions as to the policy or propriety of the measures to which they respectively refer; but what would be my course, if they were presented to me (being in the presidential chair of the United States) in the shape of bills, that had been duly passed by the Senate and House of Representatives.

"From the opinions which I have formed of the intention of the constitution, as to cases in which the veto power should be exercised by the President, I would have contented myself with giving an affirmative answer to the four first questions; but, from the deep interest which has been and indeed is now felt in relation to all the subjects, I think it proper to express my views upon each one separately.

"I answer, then, first: That the immediate return of all the surplus money which is, or ought to be, in the Treasury of the United States, to the possession of the people from whom it was taken, is called for by every principle of policy and, indeed, of safety to our institutions: and I know of no mode of doing it better than that recommended by the present chief magistrate, in his first annual message to Congress in the following words: '*To avoid these evils it appears to me that the most safe, just, and federal disposition which could be made of the surplus revenue, would be its apportionment among the several states according to the ratio of representation.*'

"This proposition has reference to a state of things which now actually exists, with the exception of the amount of money thus to be disposed of; for it could not have been anticipated by the President that the surplus above the real wants or convenient expenditures of the government would become so large, as that retaining it in the treasury would so much diminish the circulating medium as greatly to embarrass the business of the country.

"What other disposition can be made of it, with a view to get it into immediate circulation, but to place it in the hands of the state authorities? So great is the amount, and so rapidly is it increasing, that it could not be expended for a very considerable time on the comparatively few objects to which it could be appropriated by the general government; but the desired distribution amongst the people could be immediately effected by the states, from the infinite variety of ways in which it might be employed by them. By them it might be loaned to their own banking institutions, or even to individuals—a mode of distribution by the general government, which I sincerely hope is in the contemplation of no friend to his country.

"Second: Whilst I have always broadly

admitted that the public lands were the common property of all the states, I have been the advocate of that mode of disposing of them, which would create the greatest number of freeholders; and I conceived that in this way the interests of all would be as well secured as by any other disposition; but since, by the small size of the tracts in which the lands are now laid out, and the reduction of the price, this desirable situation is easily attainable by any person of tolerable industry, I am perfectly reconciled to the distribution of the proceeds of the sales, as provided for by the bill introduced into the Senate by Mr. Clay; the interests of all seem to be well provided for by this bill; and as, from the opposition which has hitherto been made to the disposition of the lands heretofore contemplated by the representatives of the new states, there is no probability of its being adopted, I think it ought no longer to be insisted on.

“Third: As I believe that no money should be taken from the treasury of the United States to be expended on internal improvements but for those which are strictly national, the answer to this question would be easy, but from the difficulty of determining which of those that are from time to time proposed, would be of this description. This circumstance, the excitement which has already been produced by appropriations of this kind, and the jealousies which it will, no doubt continue to produce if persisted in, give additional claims to the mode of appropriating all the surplus revenue of the United States in the manner above suggested. Each state will then have the means of accomplishing its own schemes of internal improvement. Still there will be particular cases when a contemplated improvement will be of greater advantage to the Union generally, and some particular states, than to that in which it is to be made. In such cases, as well as those in the new states, where the value of the public domain will be greatly enhanced by an improvement in the means of communication, the general government should certainly largely contribute. To appropriations of the latter character there has never been a very warm opposition. Upon the whole, the distribution of the surplus revenue amongst the states seems likely to remove most, if not all, the causes of dissension of which the internal improvement system has been the fruitful source. There is nothing, in my opinion, more sacredly incumbent upon those who are concerned in the administration of our government, than that of preserving harmony between the states. From the construction of our system, there has been, and probably ever will be, more or less jealousy between the general and state governments; but there is nothing in the constitution—nothing in the character of the relation which the states bear

to each other, which can create any unfriendly feeling, if the common guardian administers its favours with an even and impartial hand. That this may be the case, all those to whom any portion of this delicate power is entrusted, should always act upon the principles of forbearance and conciliation; ever more ready to sacrifice the interests of their immediate constituents, rather than violate the rights of the other members of the family. Those who pursue a different course, whose rule is never to stop short of the attainment of all which they may consider their due, will often be found to have trespassed upon the boundary they had themselves established. The observations with which I shall conclude this letter, on the subject of the veto power by the President, will apply to this as well as your other questions.

“Fourth: I have before me a newspaper, in which I am designated by its distinguished editor, ‘*The bank and federal candidate.*’ I think it would puzzle the writer to adduce any act of my life which warrants him in identifying me with the interest of the first, or the politics of the latter. Having no means of ascertaining the sentiments of the directors and stockholders of the Bank of the United States, (which is the one, I presume, with which it was intended to associate me) I cannot say what their course is likely to be in relation to the ensuing election for President. Should they, however, give me their support, it will be evidence, at least, that the opposition which I gave to their institution in my capacity of representative from Ohio, in Congress, proceeded, in their opinion, from a sense of duty which I could not disregard.

The journals of the second session of the thirteenth and those of the fourteenth Congress, will show that my votes are recorded against them upon every question in which their interest was involved. I did, indeed, exert myself in the senate of Ohio, to procure a repeal of the law, which had imposed an enormous tax upon the branches which had been located in its boundaries at the request of the citizens. The ground of those exertions was not the interest of the bank; but to save what I considered the honour of the state, and to prevent a controversy between the state officers and those of the United States.

“In the spring of 1834, I had also the honour to preside at a meeting of the citizens of Hamilton county, called for the purpose of expressing their sentiments in relation to the removal of the public money from the custody of the bank, by the sole authority of the executive. As president of the meeting, I explained at some length the object for which it was convened, but I advanced no opinion in relation to the rechartering of the bank.

“A most respectful memorial to the President in relation to the removal of the depo-

sites was adopted, as were also resolutions in favour of rechartering the bank; but, as I have already said, this was not the purpose for which the meeting was called, and not one upon which, as presiding officer, I was called upon to give an opinion, but in the event of an equal division of the votes.

"As a private citizen, no man can be more entirely clear of any motive, either for the rechartering the old institution, or creating a new one under the authority of the United States. I never had a single share in the former, nor, indeed, in any bank, with one exception; and that many years ago failed, with the loss of the entire stock. I have no inclination again to venture in that way, even if I should ever possess the means. With the exception above mentioned, of stock in a bank, long since broken, I never put out a dollar at interest in my life. My interest being entirely identified with the cultivation of the soil, I am immediately and personally connected with none other.

"I have made this statement to show you that I am not committed to any course in relation to the chartering of a bank of the United States: and that I might if so disposed, join in the popular cry of denunciation against the old institution, and upon its misconduct, predicate an opposition to the chartering of another.

"I shall not, however, take this course, so opposite to that which I hope I have followed through life, but will give you my sentiments clearly and fully, not only with regard to the future conduct of the government on the subject of a national bank, but in relation to the operations of that which is now defunct.

"I was not in Congress when the late bank was chartered, but was a member of the thirteenth Congress, after its first session, when the conduct of the bank, in its incipient measures was examined into; and believing, from the result of the investigation, that the charter had been violated, I voted for the judicial investigation, with a view of annulling its charter. The resolution for that purpose, however, failed; and shortly after, the management of its affairs was committed to the talents and integrity of Mr. Cheves. From that period to its final dissolution, (although I must confess I am not a very competent judge of such matters,) I have no idea that an institution could have been conducted with more ability, integrity, and public advantage than it has been.

"Under these impressions, I agree with General Jackson in the opinion expressed in one of his messages to Congress, from which I make the following extract: '*That a bank of the United States, competent to all the duties which may be required by the government, might be so organized as not to infringe on our delegated powers, or the reserved*

rights of the states, I do not entertain a doubt.' But the period for rechartering the old institution has passed, as Pennsylvania has wisely taken care to appropriate to herself the benefits of its large capital.

"The question, then, for me to answer, is whether, under the circumstances you state, if elected to the office of President, I would sign an act to charter another bank. I answer, I would, if it were clearly ascertained that the public interest in relation to the collection and disbursement of the revenue would materially suffer without one, and there were unequivocal manifestations of public opinion in its favour. I think, however, the experiment should be fairly tried, to ascertain whether the financial operations of the government cannot be as well carried on without the aid of a national bank. If it is not necessary for that purpose, it does not appear to me that one can be constitutionally chartered. There is no construction which I can give the constitution which would authorize it, on the ground of affording facilities to commerce. The measure, if adopted, must have for its object the carrying into effect (facilitating at least the exercise of) some *one* of the powers positively granted to the general government. If others flow from it, producing equal advantages to the nation, so much the better; but these cannot be made the ground for justifying a recourse to it.

"The excitement which has been produced by the bank question, the number and respectability of those who deny the right to Congress to charter one, strongly recommended the course above suggested.

"Fifth: I distinctly answer this question, that, in my opinion, neither House of Congress can constitutionally expunge the record of the proceedings of their predecessors.

"The power to rescind certainly belongs to them; and is, for every legitimate purpose, all that is necessary. The attempt to expunge a part of their journal, now making in the Senate of the United States, I am satisfied could never have been made but in a period of the highest party excitement, when the voice of reason and generous feeling is stifled by long protracted and bitter controversy.

"In relation to the exercise of the veto power by the President, there is, I think, an important difference in opinion between the present chief magistrate and myself. I express this opinion with less diffidence, because I believe mine is in strict accordance with those of all the previous Presidents to General Jackson.

"The veto power, or the control of the executive over the enactment of laws by the legislative body, was not unknown in the United States previously to the formation of the present federal constitution. It does not appear, however, to have been in much favour. The principle was to be found in but three of

the state constitutions; and in but one of them (Massachusetts) was the executive power lodged in the hands of a single chief magistrate. One other state (South Carolina) had, indeed, not only adopted this principle, but had given its single executive magistrate an absolute negative upon the acts of the legislature. In all other instances it has been a qualified negative, like that of the United States. The people of South Carolina seem, however, not to have been long pleased with this investment of power in their governor, as it lasted but two years: having been adopted in 1776, and repealed in 1778; from which time the acts of the legislature of that state have been entirely freed from executive control. Since the adoption of the constitution of the United States, the veto principle has been adopted by several states; and until very lately, it seemed to be rapidly growing into favour.

"Before we can form a correct opinion of the manner in which this power should be exercised, it is proper to understand the reasons which have induced its adoption. In its theory, it is manifestly an innovation upon the first principle of republican government—that the majority should rule. Why should a single individual control the will of a majority?

"It will not be said that there is more probability of finding greater wisdom in the executive chair, than in the halls of the legislature. Nor can it possibly be supposed, that an individual residing in the centre of an extensive country, can be as well acquainted with the wants and wishes of a numerous people, as those who come immediately from amongst them—the partakers, for a portion of the year, in the various labours and employments; and the witnesses of the effects of the laws in their more minute as well as general operations.

"As far, then, as it regards a knowledge of the wants and wishes of the people, wisdom to discover remedies for existing evils, and devising schemes for increasing the public prosperity, it would seem that the legislative bodies did not require the aid of an executive magistrate. But there is a principle, recognised by all the American constitutions, which was unknown to the ancient republics. They all acknowledge rights in the minority, which cannot rightfully be taken from them. Experience had shown that in large assemblies, these rights were not always respected. It would be in vain that they should be enumerated, and respect for them enjoined, in the constitution. A popular assembly, under the influence of that spirit of party which is always discoverable in a greater or less degree in all republics, might and would, as it was believed, sometimes disregard them. To guard against this danger, and to secure the rights of each individual, the expedient of creating a department independent of the

others, and amenable only to the laws, was adopted. Security was thus given against any palpable violation of the constitution, to the injury of individuals, or of a minority party. But it was still possible for a wilful and excited majority to enact laws of the greatest injustice and tyranny, without violating the letter of their charter.

"And this I take to be the origin of the veto power, as well in the state governments, as that of the United States. It appears to have been the intention to create an umpire between the contending factions, which had existed, it was believed, and would continue to exist. If there was any propriety in adopting this principle in the government of a state, all the reasons in favour of it existed in a ten-fold degree for incorporating it in that of the United States. The operations of the latter, extending over an immense tract of country, embracing the products of almost every clime, and that country divided too into a number of separate governments, in many respects independent of each other and of the common federal head, left but little hope that they could always be carried on in harmony. It could not be doubted that sectional interests would at times predominate in the bosoms of the immediate representatives of the people and the states, and combinations formed destructive of the public good, or unjust and oppressive to a minority. Where could a power to check these local feelings, and to destroy the effects of unjust combinations, be better placed than in the hands of that department whose authority, being derived from the same common sovereign, is co-ordinate with the rest, and which enjoys the great distinction of being at once the immediate representative of the whole people, as well as of each particular state?

"In the former character, the interests of the whole community would be rigidly supported, and, in the latter, the rights of each member steadfastly maintained. The representation from the state authorities in the electoral colleges, I consider one of the most felicitous features in the constitution. It serves as an eternal memento to the chief magistrate that it is his duty to guard the interests of the weak against the unjust aggressions of the strong and powerful. From these premises, you will conclude that I consider the qualified veto upon the acts of the legislature, conferred by the constitution upon the President, as a *conservative* power, intended only to be used to secure the instrument itself from violation, or, in times of high party excitement, to protect the rights of the minority, and the interests of the weaker members of the Union. Such, indeed, is my opinion, and such we must believe to be the opinion of nearly all the distinguished men who have filled the executive chair. If I were President of the United States, an act which did not in-

volve either of the principles above enumerated, must have been passed under very peculiar circumstances of precipitancy, or opposition to the known public will, to induce me to refuse to it my sanction.

"If the opinion I have given of the motives of the framers of the constitution, in giving the veto power to the President, is correct, it follows, that they never could have expected that he who was constituted the umpire between contending parties, should ever identify himself with the interests of one of them, and voluntarily *raze* himself from the proud eminence of leader of a nation to that of chief of a party. I can easily conceive the existence of a state of things by which the chief magistrate of a state may be forced to act upon party principles; but such a course is entirely opposed to all the obligations which the constitution imposes on a President of the United States. The immense influence he possesses will always give to his party the preponderance, and the very circumstance of its being an executive party will be the cause of infusing more bitterness and vindictive feeling in these domestic contests. Under these circumstances, the qualified veto given by the constitution may, if the President should think proper to change its character, become as absolute in practice as that possessed by the kings of England and France. From the great variety of local interests acting upon the members of the two houses of Congress, and from the difficulty of keeping all the individuals of a large party under the control of party discipline, laws will often be passed by small majorities adverse to the interests of the dominant party; but if the President should think proper to use the veto power for the purpose of promoting the interests of his party, it will be in vain to expect that a majority so large as two-thirds in both houses would be found in opposition to his wishes. In the hands of such a President, the qualified veto of the constitution would in practice become absolute.

"I have, upon another occasion, expressed my views upon the danger of a dominant executive party. It may, perhaps, be said, that the chief magistrate will find it impossible to avoid the influence of party spirit. Several of our chief magistrates, however, have been able to escape its influence; or, what is the same thing, to act as if they did not feel it. As one mode of avoiding it, it would be my aim to interfere with the legislation of Congress as little as possible. The clause in the constitution which makes it the duty of the President to give Congress information of the state of the Union, and to recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, could never be intended to make him the source of legislation. Information should always be frankly given, and recommendations upon such matters as

come more immediately under his cognizance than theirs. But there it should end. If he should undertake to prepare the business of legislation for the action of Congress, or to assume the character of code-maker for the nation, the personal interests which he will take in the success of his measures will necessarily convert him into a partisan, and will totally incapacitate him from performing the part of that impartial umpire, which is the character that I have supposed the constitution intends him to assume, when the acts passed by the legislature are submitted to his decision. I do not think it by any means necessary that he should take the lead as a reformer, even when reformation is, in his opinion, necessary. Reformers will be never wanting, when it is well understood that the power which wields the whole patronage of the nation will not oppose the reformation.

"I have the honour to be, with great consideration and respect, Sir, your humble servant,

"W. H. HARRISON.

"*To the Honourable Sherrod Williams.*"

GENERAL HARRISON'S OPINION OF DUELLING.

In 1838 Aaron B. Howell, Esq. of New Jersey, addressed a letter to General Harrison on the subject of duelling, to which he made the following reply:

"North Bend, April 7th, 1838.

"DEAR SIR—You ask my opinion 'of the code of honour which decides controversies by a resort to the duel.' I comply with your request, and would do so more readily, if I could suppose that any thing that I could say would have any influence in putting an end to a practice which is the cause of so much individual distress, and violates so many obligations of the most sacred character.

"The arguments which may be used against duelling are so obvious, and have been so often urged by persons, much more able to do them justice than I am, that I shall content myself with giving you what may be termed my experience in matters of this kind. And as this certainly does not exhibit the practice in a very fascinating light, it may perhaps have a better effect than any other mode of treating the subject that I could adopt.

"I believe that there were more duels in the northwestern army between the years 1791 and 1795, inclusive, than ever took place in the same length of time, and amongst so small a body of men as composed the commissioned officers of the army, either in America, or any other country, at least in modern times. I became an officer in the first mentioned year, at so early an age, that it is not wonderful that I implicitly adopted the opinions of the older officers, most of whom were veterans of the

Revolution, upon this as well as upon other subjects connected with my conduct and duty in the profession I had chosen. I believed, therefore, in common with the larger portion of the officers, that no brave man would decline a challenge, nor refrain from giving one, whenever he considered that his rights or feelings had been trespassed upon. I must confess, too, that I was not altogether free from the opinion, that even honour might be acquired by a well fought duel. Fortunately, however, before I was engaged in a duel, either as principal or second, which terminated fatally to any one, I became convinced that all my opinions on the subject were founded in error, and none of them more so than that which depicted the situation of the successful duellist, as either honourable or desirable. It could not be honourable, because the greater portion of that class of mankind whose good opinion of an individual confers honour upon him, were opposed to it. And I had the best evidence to believe that, in the grave of the fallen duellist, was frequently buried the peace and happiness of the survivor; the act which deprived the one of existence, planting a thorn in the bosom of the other, which would continue to rankle and fester there to the end of his days. The conviction that such was the case with men of good feelings and principles, was produced by my witnessing the mental sufferings of an intimate and valued friend, by whose hand a worthy man had fallen. Several years had elapsed from the date of this affair, before I became acquainted with him.

"We were soon after associated in the general staff of the army, and for the greater part of two years we shared the same tent or barrack-room, and often the same pallet. I had therefore an opportunity of seeing the agony he often felt, when his mind recurred to the event which had deprived society of a worthy member, and himself of an esteemed and cherished acquaintance. Like the unhappy hermit in the tragedy of *Douglas*, he appeared, in his sleep, to 'hold dialogues' with the ghost of the victim of his superior skill in the use of arms, or more perfect self-possession; and a witness to them might have adopted the opinion of the youthful Norval, that the happier lot was his who had fallen. Taking the rules which govern such matters, as the criterion, my friend had nothing wherewith to accuse himself. The quarrel was indeed 'fastened on him.' Generous as brave, he had done every thing in his power, to induce a withdrawal of the challenge, and when, by a first fire, his adversary was wounded, he anxiously desired that the affair might there terminate. His proposition was rejected, his second shot was fatal. What an instructive lesson does this story present to him who would resort to this mode of settling a personal difficulty; and who possesses com-

mon sensibility, and the principles of humanity and honour!—the sad alternatives, his own death, or a subsequent life of bitter regret and sorrow. A short experience in the army convinced me, also, that fighting a duel was not an undoubted test of true courage. I know instances of duels, and desperate duels, being fought by men who would not have been selected by the officers who knew them, to lead a forlorn hope. On the contrary, I possessed the most positive testimony to prove, that some of the bravest of men would not be engaged in an affair of the kind under any circumstances.

"Conformably to my plan, as stated in the commencement of my letter, to give you facts rather than arguments, I present you with another reminiscence of my early military life. I introduce it not only to sustain my position, but from the respect I entertain for the memory of a gallant brother officer, long since called to receive, in another world, his reward for having preferred 'the praise of God to the praise of men.' In the summer of the year 1793, Lieutenant Drake of the infantry of the second sub-legion, received a marked insult from another officer. Manifesting no disposition to call him to an account, some of those who wished him well, amongst whom I was one, spoke to him on the subject, expressing our fears that his reputation as an officer would greatly suffer, if he permitted such an insult to pass unnoticed. The answer that he gave me was, that he cared not what opinion the officers might form of him; he was determined to pursue his own course. That course was so novel in the army, that it lost him, as I had supposed it would, the respect of nearly all the officers. The ensuing summer, however, gave Mr. Drake an opportunity of vindicating most triumphantly his conduct and principles. He had been stationed in a small fortress, which had been erected by General Wayne during the winter, upon the spot in which they had the previous day deposited a quantity of provisions, which had been rendered remarkable by the defeat of Gen. St. Clair's army, three years before. The garrison consisted of a single rifle company, and thirty infantry, and of the latter Drake was the immediate commander. In the beginning of July, 1794, a detachment of the army, consisting of several hundred men, under the command of Major McMahon, being encamped near the fort, which they had escorted from the cantonment of the army at Greenville, were attacked, early in the morning, by upwards of three thousand Indians. The troops made a gallant resistance; but being turned on both flanks, and in danger of being surrounded, they retreated to the open ground around the fort.

"From this, too, they were soon dislodged by the overpowering force of the enemy; in the retreat many wounded men were in danger of being left, which being observed from

the fort, the commandant, Captain Gibson, directed his own lieutenant to take the infantry (Drake's particular command) and a portion of the riflemen, and sally out to their relief. To this Drake objected, and claimed the right to command his own men, and as a senior to the other lieutenant, his right also to the whole command. 'O, very well, sir,' said the captain, 'if such is your wish, take it.' 'It is my wish, sir, to do my duty, and I will endeavour to do it, now and at all times,' was the modest reply of Drake. He accordingly sallied out; skilfully interposed his detachment between the retreating troops and the enemy; opened upon them a hot fire; arrested their advance, and gave an opportunity to the wounded to effect their escape, and to the broken and retreating companies of our troops to re-form and again to face the enemy. Throughout the whole affair, Drake's activity, skill, and extraordinary self-possession, was most conspicuous. The enemy, of course, observed it, as well as his friends. The numerous shots directed at him, however, like the arrows of Teneer, aimed at the heart of Hector, were turned aside by providential interference, until he had accomplished all that he had been sent to perform. He then received a ball through his body and fell; a faithful corporal came to his assistance, and with his aid he reached the fort; and those two were the last of the retreating party that entered it; Drake made it a point of honour that it should be so. Mr. Drake was rendered unfit for duty for a long time by his wound. He had not, indeed, recovered from it, in the summer of 1796, when he was my guest, when in command at Fort Washington, (Cincinnati.) on his way, on furlough, to visit his native state, Connecticut. His friends, however, enjoyed his presence but a short time; having, as I understood, taken the yellow fever, in passing through Philadelphia, he died in a few days after he reached his home.

"I have yet another reminiscence, the relation of which may serve the cause you have so much at heart:

"An officer of the army had so often and so unnecessarily wounded the feelings of another of the same corps, the duties of which made their association indispensable, that he considered himself bound to demand satisfaction in the usual way. They met, and the injured man fell, receiving a mortal wound, as it was anticipated he would, from the superior skill of his antagonist in the use of the weapons which they used. Being possessed of a high grade of talents and an amiable character, he had the sympathy of all the officers. With others, I visited him after he had been removed to his quarters. He expressed a desire to see the officer with whom he had fought, and I was present at the interview. I wish I could describe, as it merits, this interesting scene. The circumstances attending it were

so deeply impressed upon my mind that they never can be effaced as long as memory holds its seat.

"In the tent were some half-dozen officers, the friends of the dying man, (for, as I have said, he had, from his amiable qualities, many and warm ones,) exhibiting unequivocal evidences of their sorrow. Conspicuous above the rest, and near the head of the rude couch, was the manly form of the commandant of the corps to which both the duellists belonged, (the beau ideal of chivalrous valour, and the Chevalier de Bayard of the army,) endeavouring to stifle, as best he could, the feelings which agitated his bosom. At a little distance, and in full view of the victim of his passions, sat the insensible:—but I must restrain the indignation which I still feel. He was my brother officer—we shared together the perils of a difficult war—and, in battle, I know that he did his duty—and, whatever might have been his conduct to others, I never had personally any reason to complain of him. But there he sat, apparently, at least, unaffected by the mischief he had done, by burying in an untimely grave, a man who had never injured him, whose arm might be needed in the pending decisive battle with the hitherto triumphant enemies of his country, and whose intellect might at some future time have been usefully employed in its councils. The severe bodily pain which the dying officer had for some time suffered, had ceased, and that calm and ease succeeded, which is the unequivocal harbinger of approaching death, and which a gracious Providence has provided for the mortally wounded soldier, to enable him to offer a last prayer for his distant family, if he has one, or for the pardon of his own sins. Turning his intelligent eye upon his late antagonist, he mildly said, 'he had desired to see him, for the purpose of assuring him of his sincere forgiveness—that he wished him happiness in this world—and that as the means of securing it, he recommended to him, with the sincerity of a dying man, to endeavour to restrain the violence of his passions, the indulgence of which had deprived one of life, who had never injured him, in thought or deed.'

"I am satisfied that what I have said above does not entirely meet your inquiry, and that you will expect me to state what effect the scenes I have described had in forming my own principles, and governing my own conduct. I have already stated an entire change in my sentiments on the subject of duelling, from those which I entertained upon my first entering the army; and for which no excuse can be offered, but my extreme youth, and the bad examples continually before me. In almost every other case, possessed of the deliberate opinions of a man, you might safely conclude that his conduct would be in conformity to them. But such, alas! is not the

case with men of the world, in relation to the laws which form 'the code of honour.' Abstractedly considered, they all condemn them, while in practice they adopt them. In all other cases, independent men act from their own convictions, but in this case, upon the opinions of others.

"I acknowledge, then, that the change of my opinions, which I have admitted in relation to duelling, had no other influence on my conduct than to determine me never to be the aggressor. But, although resolved to offer no insult nor to inflict any injury, I was determined to suffer none. When I left the army, however, and retired to civil life, I considered myself authorized greatly to narrow the ground upon which I would be willing to resort to a personal combat. To the determination which I had previously made, to offer no insult or inflict any injury to give occasion to any one to call upon me in this way, (for after witnessing the last scene which I have described, the wealth and honours of the world would not have tempted me to level a pistol at the breast of a man whom I injured,) I resolved to disregard all remarks upon my conduct which could not be construed into a deliberate insult, or any injury which did not affect my reputation or the happiness and peace of my family. When I had the honour to be called upon to command the northwestern army, recollecting the number of gallant men that had fallen in the former war, in personal combat, I determined to use all the authority and all the influence of my station to prevent their recurrence. And, to take away the principal source from which they spring, in an address to the Pennsylvania brigade, at Sandusky, I declared it to be my determination to prevent, by all the means that the military laws placed in my hands, any injury, or even insult, which should be offered, by the superior to the inferior officers. I cannot say what influence this course, upon my part, may have produced in the result. But I state, with pleasure, that there was not a single duel, nor, as far as I know, a challenge given, whilst I retained the command. The activity in which the army was constantly kept, may, however, have been the principal cause of this uncommon harmony.

"In relation to my present sentiments, a sense of higher obligations than human laws, or human opinions, can impose, has determined me never, on any occasion, to accept a challenge, or seek redress for a personal injury, by a resort to the laws which compose the code of honour.

"I am, very respectfully,

"Your fellow-citizen,

"W. H. HARRISON.

"To Aaron B. Howell, Esq."

GENERAL HARRISON'S NOMINATION BY THE CONVENTION OF 1838. HIS LETTER TO HARMER DENNY.

In the autumn of 1838 General Harrison was nominated as a candidate for the Presidency by the National Democratic Anti-Masonic Convention, which assembled at Harrisburg, in Pennsylvania. The proceedings of this convention were communicated officially to General Harrison by the Hon. Harmer Denny. His reply to this communication, dated December 2d, 1838, which we give below in full, will show the principles on which he will administer the government.

"North Bend, 2d Dec. 1838.

"DEAR SIR:—As it is probable that you have by this time returned to Pittsburg, I do myself the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter from Philadelphia, containing the proceedings of the National Democratic Antimasonic Convention, which lately convened in that city. With feelings of the deepest gratitude, I read the resolution unanimously adopted, nominating me as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. This is the second time that I have received from that patriotic party, of which you yourself are a distinguished member, the highest evidence of confidence that can be given to a citizen of our republic. I would attempt to describe my sense of the obligations I owe them, if I were not convinced that any language which I could command would fall far short of what I really feel. If, however, the wishes of the convention should be realized, and if I should second their efforts, I shall have it in my power to manifest my gratitude in a manner more acceptable to those whom you represent, than by any professions of it which I could at this time make; I mean by exerting my utmost efforts to carry out the principles set forth in their resolutions, by arresting the progress of the measures 'destructive to the prosperity of the people, and tending to the subversion of their liberties,' and substituting for them those sound democratic republican doctrines upon which the administration of Jefferson and Madison were conducted.

"Among the principles proper to be adopted by any Executive sincerely desirous to restore the administration to its original simplicity and purity, I deem the following to be of prominent importance.

"I. TO CONFINE HIS SERVICE TO A SINGLE TERM.

"II. TO DISCLAIM ALL RIGHT OF CONTROL OVER THE PUBLIC TREASURE, with the exception of such part of it as may be appropriated by law to carry on the public services, and

that to be applied precisely as the law may direct, and drawn from the treasury agreeably to the long established forms of that department.

"III. THAT HE SHOULD NEVER ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE ELECTIONS, either by the people or the state legislatures, nor suffer the federal officers under his control to take any other part in them than by giving their own votes when they possess the right of voting.

"IV. That in the exercise of the veto power, he should limit his rejection of bills to: 1st. Such as are in his opinion unconstitutional. 2d. Such as tend to encroach on the rights of the states or individuals. 3d. Such as, involving deep interests, may in his opinion require more mature deliberation or reference to the will of the people, to be ascertained at the succeeding elections.

"V. That he should never suffer the influence of his office to be used for purposes of a purely party character.

"VI. That in removals from office of those who hold their appointments during the pleasure of the Executive, the cause of such removal should be stated if requested, to the Senate, at the time the nomination of a successor is made.

"And last, but not least in importance,

"VII. That he should not suffer the Executive department of the government to become the source of legislation; but leave the whole business of making laws for the Union to the department to which the constitution has exclusively assigned it, until they have assumed that perfected shape where and when alone the opinions of the Executive may be heard. A community of power in the preparation of the laws between the legislature and Executive departments, must necessarily lead to dangerous combinations, greatly to the advantage of a President desirous of extending his power. Such a construction of the constitution could never have been contemplated by those who framed it, as they well knew that those who propose the bills, will always take care of themselves, or the interests of their constituents, and hence the provision in the Constitution, borrowed from that of England, restricting the originating of revenue bills to the immediate representatives of the people. So far from agreeing in opinion with the distinguished character who lately retired from the presidency, that Congress should have applied to him for a project of a banking system, I think that such an application would have manifested not only great subserviency upon the part of that body, but an unpardonable ignorance of the chief danger to be apprehended from such an institution. That danger unquestionably consists in a union of interests between the executive and the bank. Would an ambitious incumbent of the executive chair neglect so favourable an opportunity as the preparing of the law would give him, to insert

in it provisions to secure his influence over it? In the authority given to the President by the Constitution 'to recommend to Congress such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient,' it was certainly never intended that the measures he recommended should be presented in a shape suited for the immediate decision of the legislature. The sages who made the Constitution, too well knew the advantages which the crown of England derives from the exercise of this power by its ministers, to have intended it to be used by our chief magistrate, or the heads of departments under his control. The boasted principles of the English Constitution, that the consent of the democratic branch is not only necessary to receive money from the people, but that it is its inviolable prerogative also to originate all the bills for that purpose, is true in theory, but rendered utterly false and nugatory in effect, by the participation of the ministers of the crown in the details of legislation. Indeed the influence they derive from sitting as members of the House of Commons, and from wielding the immense patronage of the crown (constitutional or usurped,) gives them a power over that body, that renders plausible, at least, the flattery, or as it is more probable, the intended sarcasm of Sir Walter Raleigh, in an address to James I., that the demand of the sovereign upon the Commons for pecuniary aid, was required only 'that the tax might seem to come from themselves.'

"Having thus given you my opinion of some things which might be done, and others which should not be done, by a President coming into power by the support of those of the people who are opposed to the principles upon which the present administration is conducted, you will see that I have omitted one, which is deemed by many of as much importance as any other. I allude to the appointment of members of Congress to office by the President. The Constitution contains no prohibition of such appointments, no doubt because its authors could not believe in its necessity, from the purity of character which was manifested by those who possessed the confidence of the people at that period. It is, however, an opinion very generally entertained by the opposition party, that the country would have escaped much of the evil under which it has suffered for some years past, if the Constitution had contained a provision of that kind. Having had no opportunity of personal observation on the conduct of the administration for the last ten years, I am unable to decide upon the truth or error of this opinion. But I should be very willing that the known subserviency of the Legislature to the Executive, in several memorable instances, should be accounted for in a way somewhat less injurious to the character of the country and of republicanism itself, than by the admission that the fathers of the land, the trusted servants of a

virtuous people, could be seduced from the path of duty and honour, by the paltry trap-pings and emoluments of dependent offices. But if the evil really exists, and if there be good reason to believe that its source is to be found in the corruptibility of the members of the Legislature, an effectual remedy cannot be too soon applied. And it happens in this instance that there is a choice of remedies. One of those, however, is in my opinion free from the objections which might be offered to the other. The one to which I object is, that which the late President has been so loudly called upon to adopt, in consequence of a promise made at the commencement of his administration, viz. that the Executive under no circumstances should appoint to office a member of either branch of the National Legislature. There are, in my mind, several weighty reasons against the adoption of this principle. I will detain you with the mention of but two of them, because I believe that you will agree with me, that the alternative I shall present, while it would be equally effectual, contains no feature to which a reasonable objection could be made.

"As the Constitution contains no provision to prevent the appointment of Members of Congress to office by the Executive, could the Executive, with a due regard to delicacy and justice, without usurping power from the people, declare a disqualification which they had not thought necessary? And where is the American citizen who regards the honour of his country, the character of its people, or who believes in the superiority of a republican form of government, who would be willing to proclaim to the world, that the youthful nation which has attracted so much of its attention, which it has so much admired for its gigantic strength, its undaunted courage, its high attainments in literature and the arts, and the external beauty of its institutions, was within a mass of meanness and corruption? That even the chosen servants of the people, were ever ready, for a paltry consideration, to abandon their allegiance to their lawful sovereigns, and to become the servants of a servant. The alternative to this degrading course, is to be found in depriving the Executive of all motive for acquiring an improper influence over the Legislature.

"To effect this, nothing in my opinion is necessary but to re-establish the principles upon which the administration was once conducted, with a single addition of limiting the service of the President to one term. A condensed enumeration of what I conceive these principles to have been, is given above. And I think no one can doubt, that, if faithfully carried out, they would be effectual in securing the independence of the Legislature, and confining the connexion between it and the Executive, to that alone which is warranted

by a fair construction of the Constitution. I can conceive of but two motives which could induce a President of the United States to endeavour to procure a controlling influence over the Legislative body, viz.—to perpetuate his power, by passing laws to increase his patronage—or to gratify his vanity, by obtaining their sanction to his schemes and projects for the government of the country; and thus assimilating his situation to that of the limited monarchs of Europe. The principles above suggested, would effectually destroy any disposition of the person elected by the combined votes of the opposition, to place himself in either attitude. Retiring at the end of four years to private life, with no wish or prospect of any 'son of his succeeding,' legitimate or adopted, he would leave the government as prosperous and pure in its administration, as when it passed from the hands of the great 'Apostle of Democracy,' to the Father of our Constitution.

"To the duties which I have enumerated, so proper in my opinion to be performed by a President, elected by the opposition to the present administration, (and which are, as I believe, of constitutional obligation,) I will add another which I believe also to be of much importance. I mean the observance of the most conciliatory course of conduct towards our political opponents. After the censure which our friends have so freely and so justly bestowed upon the present Chief Magistrate, for having, in no inconsiderable degree, disfranchised the whole body of his political opponents, I am certain that no oppositionists, true to the principles he professes, would approve a similar course of conduct in the person whom his vote has contributed to elect. In a Republic, one of the surest tests of a healthy state of its institutions, is to be found in the immunity with which every citizen may, upon all occasions, express his political opinions and even his prejudices, in the discharge of his duty as an elector.

"The question may perhaps be asked of me, what security I have in my power to offer, if the majority of the American people should select me for their Chief Magistrate, that I would adopt the principles which I have herein laid down as those upon which my administration would be conducted, I could only answer, by referring to my conduct, and the disposition manifested in the discharge of the duties of several important offices, which have heretofore been conferred upon me. If the power placed in my hands has, on even a single occasion, been used for any purpose other than that for which it was given, or retained longer than was necessary to accomplish the objects designated by those from whom the trusts were received, I will acknowledge that either will constitute a sufficient reason for discrediting any promise I may

make, under the circumstances in which I am now placed.

"I am, dear sir, truly yours,
"W. H. HARRISON.

"To the Hon. Harmer Denny."

The noble and purely republican sentiments of this letter, together with its plain, yet manly and vigorous language, forcibly remind us of the invaluable writings of our revered *Washington*.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON
BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

In December, 1839, a National Convention of the opponents of the present administration of all parties, assembled at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This Convention comprised numerous delegates selected from among the most respectable, intelligent, and patriotic citizens of *Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Illinois, Alabama, and Michigan*. This august and dignified assemblage, representing every variety of interest in every portion of the country, after a calm and mature deliberation, responded to the wishes of the people of the United States, by unanimously nominating WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, as their candidate for the Presidency, in 1840. Since this nomination was made, the thinned ranks of the administration party, the evident dismay of the office-holders, and the avowed determination of THE PEOPLE to vote for their own candidate, clearly indicate that an important change is about to take place—that the nation is at last wearied of the corruption of their present rulers, their dishonesty, and abuse of power, and that the administration of our government is soon to be confided to the guidance of the brave and skilful commander, the honest and able statesman, and the poor man's friend—*William Henry Harrison*.

GOVERNOR EVERETT'S OPINION OF GENERAL
HARRISON.

Soon after this nomination, Governor Everett, whose elevated position places him above the charge of being influenced merely by political motives, and whose

distinguished attainments and profound scholarship are widely known, in his reply to the committee appointed to inform him of his re-nomination for the office of Governor of Massachusetts, spoke of General Harrison in the following well-merited terms :

"Having been familiarly acquainted with General Harrison at Washington, during the four years of President Adams's administration, I have ample and personal knowledge of his 'honesty, capacity, and patriotism.' His talents are of a high order; his general reading particularly in the department of history, is extensive and accurate; he is a good speaker and a good writer, [witness his discourse on the Aborigines of the valley of the Ohio, in 1838,] his practical acquaintance with affairs is exceeded by that of few individuals in the country, and his public services have been extended over a longer period I believe than those of any other man now on the stage. Warmly attached, as I have been to the former candidate of Massachusetts, I still regard the nomination of General Harrison as a most favourable event. The country is under the highest obligations to those distinguished statesmen, whose magnanimity has produced a perfect union of the whig party in its support. I feel confident that this nomination will prove the means of effecting that change in national politics, which has become so necessary for the public welfare. The country needs relief from the policy pursued by the General Government, and the intense party action by which it has thus far been sustained. The continued appeal to the worst passions of men, by the party press, is scarcely less pernicious than the measures in the support of which those passions are enlisted. It is evident, from indications too plain to be mistaken, that the people have decreed a change, and that the nomination of General Harrison is the instrument by which it will be effected. That it may prove auspicious to our beloved Commonwealth, and to the whole country, the harbinger of better times and better feelings, is the fervent wish of,

"Gentlemen, your obliged

"Friend, and obedient servant,

"EDWARD EVERETT."

CONCLUSION.

Our confined limits have only permitted us to make short extracts from the numerous speeches, addresses, and written productions of General Harrison, and it has therefore not been in our power to do him full justice. Still, even the quotations we have made are enough to convince every

unprejudiced reader that General Harrison possesses a comprehensive and vigorous mind, well cultivated and improved by much study and deep reflection—and that he is an able and ready writer, and a sound scholar, familiar with the literature of the day, and well versed in the history of the past.

From early manhood, General Harrison has never had the appearance of possessing a robust constitution, but from the activity and temperate habits of his past life, few men at his age enjoy their moral and physical energies in such remarkable vigour. His manners are plain, frank, and unassuming, and his disposition is cheerful, kind, and generous, almost to a fault. In his private intercourse, he is beloved and esteemed by all who know him. In the various civil and military offices he has held, he has always been moderate and forbearing, yet firm and true to his trust. No other commander has ever been more popular with our militia, and the true secret of this cannot be better explained than by his own reply, when asked how he had gained this influence: "By treating them," said he, "with affection and kindness; by always recollecting that they were my fellow-citizens, whose feelings I was bound to respect; and by sharing with them, on every occasion, the hardships which they were obliged to undergo."

The earliest political sentiments of

William Henry Harrison, were formed under the parental instruction and in the intimate companionship of the patriotic sages of the Revolution—and the principles he then imbibed have been his unerring guide through life. Enjoying the confidence of WASHINGTON, ADAMS, JEFFERSON, and MADISON, he was, on all occasions, conspicuous for his moderation in office, his scrupulous attention to the public interests, his inflexible integrity, and his extended and enlightened views as a statesman. Repeatedly appointed by the Presidents we have named, to stations of great importance and high responsibility, he has always amply fulfilled the duties of his various trusts to the entire satisfaction of the people and of the Chief Executive. *He has been weighed in the balance and not found wanting—He has been tried in the furnace and come out like true gold seven times purified.*

Such is the CANDIDATE OF THE PEOPLE, WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON—to whom the administration of the government of the United States is about to be confided, and who, as the glorious reward of all his past services, will have the highest of all earthly honours—that of redeeming his country from her present state of misery and depression, and of restoring her to that proud position of happiness and prosperity, which is her natural birthright.

FINIS.

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